THE

SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN.

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THE LESSON OF THE REPORTS.

The reports from Chattanooga, which we publish in this number of the BULLETIN, throw so much light both on the value of the work which the Commission is doing and of the difficulties with which it has to contend, that we ask for a careful perusal of them, as the best mode of appealing for public sympathy and support. There could not be a better illustration of our relations with the army than is afforded by the state of things which existed there after the battle of Chickamauga. The occupation of Lookout Mountain by the enemy left our army dependent for all its supplies on a common and very bad wagon-road, nearly eighty miles long, which incessant use and heavy rains soon rendered all but impassable for wheels. This at once placed the whole force on short rations, and of course condemned numbers of sick and wounded to death. It cannot be too clearly remembered that when a crisis of this sort occurs in military operations, the first duty of a general is not to take care of those of his men who are disabled, but of those who are fit for duty. His business is to bring the campaign to a successful issue at all costs, and if he can do so and at the same time have proper attention paid to those who have been stricken down by battle or disease, humanity requires that he should do it. But if attention to the sick and wounded is at all likely to interfere with the proper conduct of the military operation, the saddest, sternest, but most imperative rule of war requires that his whole resources in transportation, and in everything else, should be devoted rather to keeping the healthy in health than to restoring the non-effectives. Ammunition, and bread for those who can use it, are the prime requisites of an army under all circumstances; and when an army gets into difficulties like those of our army at Chattanooga, they only become tenfold more requisite than ever. At a crisis of this sort, the medical department finds itself too often paralyzed for want of stores and transportation. The whole energies of the military authorities are devoted to keeping the ranks full, and in forwarding reinforcements and munitions; so that it may be said that the surgeon finds that as his wants increase the means of supplying them diminish.

All these difficulties have been aggravated in the West by the nature of the country in which the operations are carried on, and by the immense distances at which the armies frequently find themselves from their base—distances which have had no parallel in European warfare, or only in the campaign of 1812 in Russia. Instances have occurred of troops having been dependent for all their supplies upon a line of three hundred miles of wagon-road. And these long lines, it must be remembered, generally lie through regions desolated by two years of war and incessantly harried by guerrillas, in which subsistence, forage, and often even the shelter of a roof, are wanting. That, under such circumstances, the medical department of the army should

frequently find itself unable to meet the demands upon it, is nothing wonderful; the wonder would be if it did not. When the fierce shocks and sharp blows of war come, and the fate of the whole army, or the fate of the cause itself is at stake, the hospital is naturally and inevitably sacrificed to the field.

It is the business and the aim of the Sanitary Commission to gather together from every quarter the money and the stores contributed by those who, from their position, can play no part in the war beyond seeking to alleviate its misery, who have nothing to do with military exigencies, and can therefore pay undivided heed to those of humanity; to keep these stores and money in its hands and follow the army with them in its march, husband them until a victory, or defeat, or retreat has flung a load of suffering on the regular departments which they are unable to cope with, and then to step in and as far as possible fill up all deficiencies. This seems a simple matter, but it is not by any means. After all the work of collecting stores from every corner of the Union has been accomplished, even after they have hurried down to what seems to be the very edge of the battle-field, comes the hardest task of all—that of getting them conveyed to the exact spot where they are needed, to the very hospital where the sick are struggling for life on hard-tack and bad water, or to the very field on which the wounded lie starving and untended in their torn and bloody clothes. The difficulties of transportation, even for the medical department in our army, are immense; and they are of course still greater for the Commission. There ought unquestionably to be separate transportation provided for the former. It ought not to be dependent on the quartermaster for its wagons, to have its sole means of bringing up its stores liable to curtailment or total stoppage every time there is any unusual demand for wagons and mules on the part of other branches of the service. But then, as we have already remarked, it is more than doubtful whether it would be possible to organize means of transport for it which would under no circumstances be exposed to the pressure of that necessity which is, after all, the supreme law of an army. What general would agree under all circumstances to keep his hands off wagons which might save him from a disastrous retreat, even if their seizure and conversion to other uses involved the death of thousands of wounded men? The Sanitary Commission is also constantly forced in the West to rely on the quartermaster for its means of sending forward its stores, and exposed to precisely the same risks and delays as everybody else. Let the necessities of the wounded be ever so great, its means of supplying their wants ever so abundant, it has to take its chance of reaching them in precisely the same way as the regular medical directors. The accident which happened to the seventeen wagons which were captured while under Mr. Redding's charge, furnishes an excellent illustration of the obstacles which have to be overcome in the West. Its help was probably never more sorely needed than at the moment that this supply was going forward, and yet one swoop of the rebel cavalry converted to the use of drunken troopers stores that would probably have saved the lives of hundreds and hastened the recovery of thousands.

The robbery of our stores by the teamsters is one more proof of the hundreds we have had in the course of the war, of the imprudence, to use no stronger term, of employing civilians to take charge of the army wagons. The teamsters are simply hired men, and are not subject to military discipline. The wagon-master who accompanies the train has no authority over them except that of an employer over his servants—and the value of this, in time of war in the West, may be readily imagined. They belong, however, generally to a drunken and reckless class, and burden themselves with very little responsibility about the property of the Government committed to their charge. When one remembers that any one of these men has it in his power, by upsetting his wagon on the road, to delay the advance of a train, it may be a mile or two in length, for half a day, and thus perhaps endanger the safety of the whole army—and instances of this have actually occurred—one cannot help regretting deeply that some effort has not been made to organize a military force for the transport service. In no European army is the bag-

gage committed to the custody of civilians. Every one of them has a corps enlisted for this duty, and officered by picked men. The Military Train in France, and the Land Transport Corps in England, are considered amongst the most arduous and responsible branches of the service. It will be observed that the worst that could befall the scoundrels who gorged themselves on the road to Chattanooga upon the stores, for want of which the sick and wounded were perishing, was dismissal from their employment. But it will be readily imagined that, to men who could be guilty of such an act, this was no very severe punishment.

The thing which our agents in the West most urgently demand is vegetables; this is the great want in all the hospitals, and the want of them is a serious bar to recovery in certain kinds of disease. We beg the attention of our readers to the remarks in our reports on this subject. Vegetables are of course amongst the things that are not procurable at the seat of war, and they have to come from the Northern States, mainly from the vicinity of the large towns. Donations of them in sufficient quantities are certainly not to be expected from the growers, and they are therefore, in the dried form, amongst the supplies for which money is absolutely necessary. Mr. Bloor's letter to Miss Collins, which will be found in another column, indicates very clearly what our wants are likely to be during the coming winter. It must not be forgotten, however, by those who read it, that let us have ever so large quantities of the articles for which he calls, the distribution of them still remains to be done. They have to be sent in the track of the army over hundreds of miles of wasted country, gathered together at depots all across the continent, and which have to be carried by some means or other to those who most need them; this is the hardest part of our task, and for it money is absolutely necessary; and the larger the donations of supplies the more money we need.

The Commission cannot receive packages for individuals, for here, as in its general relief service, it must bestow the peoples' aid where it is most needed.

THE RICHMOND PRISONS.

The following report from Dr. McDonald is very interesting, from the light it throws on the condition of the Richmond prisoners, which, judging from recent accounts, has since become worse than he describes them:

WASHINGTON, *Sept. 25th*, 1863.

DR. LEWIS H. STEINER,

Army of Potomac:

DEAR SIR—My report of proceedings since July 1st will necessarily be composed mainly of brief extracts from the meagre diary which has been preserved, and such statements as may seem fitting; nearly all our papers having been lost or destroyed while we were on the march.

July 1st.—At Washington, awaiting a chance for a safe forward movement, military men assuring us that the roads to Gettysburg were not in a safe condition for travel, without an escort.

2d.—News of a battle reached us during the evening, and our time till 12.30 A.M. was employed in loading goods on the cars for Westminster.

3d.—Started at 1 P.M. with Mr. Scandlin, Mr. Gall, two teams and drivers, and a negro boy; reached Rockville at 6 P.M., where we fed and rested our horses, and from whence we started between 8 and 9 P. M. for Frederick, at which place we arrived at 5.15 A.M. of July 4th, after having traveled all night.

The same evening, at 6 P. M., Mr. Gall started with an empty four-mule team and driver for Westminster, there to load from the cars and proceed to the field; Mr. Scandlin and myself, with a load of stores, driver and black boy, made all possible speed towards Gettysburg; 11 P.M. passed General Kilpatrick's cavalry at Mechanicstown, where we halted for the night.

Sunday, 5th.—At 8 A.M. started for Gettysburg, and about 9.30 A.M. were met by a squad of cavalry wearing U. S. uniforms and equipments, who commanded us to halt, and after inquiring who we were, told us to "consider ourselves prisoners of war," which we soon found, by the numbers of graybacks crowding around us, to be too true. These new friends (?) were all eager to show their affection by appropriating

some part of our property each to himself, without any regard to our comfort or convenience; truly, we had "fallen among thieves." General Stuart appropriated the horses, wagon and supplies; a quartermaster laid siege to our saddle horses; the equipments and light articles were soon distributed among the men, and then personal property was demanded; even the Surgeon of the Brigade, who had heard our explanation to General Stuart, and understood in what service we were engaged, came to the rear and haggled with some of the men for possession of a saddle and bridle taken from one of our horses, as he said, "for the purpose of presenting it to a friend in Richmond." His entire soul was wrapped in desire for plunder, and we were consoled for part of our loss by knowing that his grasping spirit had been foiled, and he could not get a share of the spoils. These changes of ownership were very soon accomplished, and we were started over the mountains in the direction of Hagerstown; but towards evening, finding the road in that direction blocked by Union cavalry, we were marched by an unfrequented road to near Smithstown, where a smart artillery duel came off, and so soon as darkness came on a guide was procured who led us over an unfrequented and very rough road to the town of Lytersburg, where we were turned in to grass at 1.30 A. M., and rested three hours; then were marched about a mile, found a check in front, and were moved back to the centre of the town; halted, and here received food from the *Union* citizens, who gave whatever they could spare, and we ate while General Stuart was endeavoring to find an outlet of escape for his forces. At length we were transferred to the care of another commander, and started for Hagerstown; after proceeding about four miles, the road was again found to be blocked by cavalry; we were marched back three miles, and camped till the right of way should be settled. About dark were again "en route," and marched through Hagerstown, to within one mile of Williamsport, where we were encamped at 2.30 A. M. of July 7, and just before dark of the afternoon of this day we received a ration of half a pint of flour and two ounces of beef, but no means for cooking were provided, therefore we ate of unleavened bread and toasted beef; collected a few rails and endeavored to roost as dryly as possible during the rainy night. During the march from Lytersburg Moses had been moved to the rear, and at Williamsport he was placed with other contrabands.

Wednesday, 8th.—Were moved back one-quarter mile to camp with privates; we preferring to remain with them, as there were prospects of our becoming of use in various ways, especially in attending the wounded, of whom there were quite a number. Rained all day and night till 12 M. During the afternoon received another ration similar to that of the previous day; disposed of it in like manner. Wrote to Col. Mayo, requesting an interview with General Pickett, hoping he would release us when our position was known to him, but received no answer.

Thursday, 9th.—Started at 1 P. M. for the ferry, but finding the facilities for transportation were limited, a majority of the men—ourselves included—were sent back to camp. Mr. Scandlin went with me to call on General Pickett during the evening; his reception of us was rather frigid and decidedly formal, he communicating with us by means of his adjutant, and deciding that we must go on to Richmond. On complaining of the insufficient quantity and poor quality of food the men were receiving, we were furnished with an order for more food for ourselves, and a promise of more on the morrow for the men. Our extra rations consisted of two or three small hoe-cakes, and a *knuckle bone* of boiled ham, (all the officer had to give us,) but our men did not get their extra, nor always their regular allowance; however, they got plenty of promises of full rations after crossing to the other side of the Potomac.

Friday, 10th.—Moved to the river at 3 A. M., crossed at 6.45, and halted till 12.30 P. M. The promise of more rations was not kept; their wagon trains had been cut off by our cavalry, and they could not get supplies forward; would give us more when we got down the valley. The faith in these promises was very much weakened by so many similar ones still remaining unfulfill-

ed. At 12.30 P. M. commenced a terrible march, with an escort of cavalry, artillery, and infantry, for fear of recapture or a stampede; the first hour we traveled nearly six miles under a scorching sun, guards and prisoners continually falling by the road-side from the effects of heat and exhaustion. General Imboden, finding that his own men were suffering much more than the prisoners, and that he would soon be left without a guard, rode to the head of the column after the first hour's march and moderated the rate of travel. During the remainder of the day our pace was much slower and more regular till we camped at 9.30 P. M. two miles beyond Martinsburg. While passing through Martinsburg the inhabitants expressed their sympathy by kind words and more kind donations of food, in spite of the curses, threats, and even blows of our chivalrous cavalry guards, some of whom even went so far in their brutality as to strike women for giving us bread and water.

After we were encamped, some of the officers rode back to the town and invited the inhabitants to bake bread for us, and many families, we were told, worked all night preparing food for us, which was loaded into wagons next morning and sent to *Lee's Army!*

Saturday, 11th.—Started at 6 A. M. for Bunker's Hill, where we were halted, received and cooked rations, and at 6 P. M. commenced a night march over a terribly rough road to camp two miles north of Winchester, arriving at 2 A.M. of the 12th. Our escort was vexed with having to guard prisoners during a night march, especially the cavalry, who were exceedingly irascible, rough and uncourteous, striking the men with their sabres, and in some cases even placing their pistols at the heads of exhausted men and threatening to blow out their brains, generally ending by pricking the poor fellows with their sabres till they would rise in wrath and proceed on the tedious journey. Men and guards were this night completely exhausted.

Sunday, 12th.—Had a short interview with General Imboden, and explained to him our position; he "could not release us." We must go to Richmond, and from thence would certainly be sent home by the first flag of truce; meanwhile we would be permitted to board in and have the freedom of the city, and most assuredly would not be confined in prison. Told him the prisoners were exhausted, and could not go further without rest; he promised that we should only travel two miles that day, and that from thenceforth our marches should be short—not to exceed twelve or fifteen miles per day.

Were marched through Winchester in season to meet the inhabitants on their way home from church, and there was an evident desire to make as much display of their captives as was possible. Halted one mile beyond Winchester, where we received rations for three days, or till such time as we should reach Mt. Jackson; viz., one quart of flour and three quarters of a pound of fresh beef.

Monday, 13th.—In line at 6 A. M.; delayed by wagon trains on the road till 9.30 A. M. Had rained all night, and was still pouring in torrents; a bridge on the turnpike had been washed away during the night, necessitating a detour of four miles, on or through a dirt road and woods, in order to ford the stream at a safe place; this detour gave us two miles of double-quick march in mud and water ankle deep, then a tedious march till 7.30 P. M., when we encamped within one and a half miles of Strasburg, soaked through, cold, without shelter, exceedingly tired, almost discouraged, and with a prospect of passing a restless night in the rain and on wet ground.

Tuesday, 14th.—Started at 6 A. M., marched twenty-four miles, without food, and camped at 7 P. M.

Wednesday, 15th.—Moving at 6 A.M. for Mt. Jackson and rations; camped at 9 A. M., expecting rations for three days in the same ratio as previously, but didn't get any. Left at 2 P. M., and reached camp south of New Market at 7.30 P.M.; drew and ate a ration. During the day met carriages containing a number of persons marked by badges on their hats, "Committee for the Relief of our Wounded," then proceeding to the battle-field. Remarked to them that we belonged to a somewhat similar organization of the North, but were then held as prisoners, and hoped they would

be more fortunate in their laudable endeavors to succor the distressed than we had been. They were "sorry" for us, and passed on.

Thursday, 16th.—Column was this day marched left in front, affording some rest for those who had thus far been in the rear, and giving them a better opportunity to purchase food of citizens, all of whom we found greedy for greenbacks, as well as the officers and soldiers; camped two miles south of Harrisonburg at 4 P.M., and after a heavy thunder-shower--during which we rested on our boots, sheltering our clothing as much as possible with our rubber blankets, which were still preserved—we were blessed with three crackers and a quarter of a pound of bacon.

Friday, 17th.—After a cold, restless night, were permitted to pay six dollars each for a ride of sixteen miles to a point within four miles of Staunton, where we camped at 4 P. M., and received our three crackers, with one-quarter pound of bacon. An order was issued this day forbidding the purchase of greenbacks by any of the citizens.

Saturday, 18th.—Moved at 6.30 A.M.; marched 5½ miles to a point one and a half miles beyond Staunton, where the men were relieved of their shelter-tents and rubber blankets, received a pint of flour and quarter pound of bacon, and were ordered to camp to await the arrival of cars for an onward move to Richmond.

Sunday, 19th.—Had an interview with Col. Smith, in charge of prisoners' guard, who assured us of our immediate release on reaching Richmond.

Monday, 20th.—At 7.30 A. M. proceeded to the cars, and embarked for Richmond, arriving in that city on the morning of the succeeding day, and being safely ensconced within the walls of Libby Prison at 4 A. M. of the 21st. On entering the Prison, Leonard Brink was assigned to the citizens' room, while Mr. Scandlin and myself were sent up stairs to an apartment (occupied by Union officers) about forty-five feet wide by one hundred and twenty-five in length, of which there were four in the building, each communicating with the other, and well filled, nearly six hundred officers being at that time confined in Libby. Soon found a bare spot of floor, and lay down for a short rest, having only a rubber blanket and Mr. Scandlin's overcoat for a bed. At daylight were awakened by the sounds of many feet, and found the room alive with human beings; and, as we afterwards learned, much to our discomfort, each conveying about on his person and in his clothing quite a stock of living beings.

Breakfast came during the morning, and proved to be nearly all the ration for twenty-four hours—one-half pound of bread and two ounces of boiled beef. This, with a pint of soup made from spoiled bacon and a little rice, was our daily allowance during the first two weeks of our incarceration, after which we were permitted to purchase vegetables, were furnished with cooking-stoves, and ordered to do our own cooking, which was a great improvement to our fare.

Our bed, as on the morning of our arrival, consisted of Mr. Scandlin's coat, a rubber blanket, and the clothes we were in the daily habit of wearing.

Vermin were plenty, and our most strenuous efforts failed to keep them in abeyance.

Water was brought from and retained all the peculiar characteristics of James River; there was generally a sufficient quantity, though occasionally the supply would be partially cut off, causing considerable vexation of spirit. The floors were well swept twice each day, and were washed once a week. The apartments were thoroughly fumigated as often as every alternate day, and most of the rooms were fairly ventilated.

Were detained in this Prison till the morning of August 10, on which day Rev. Josiah Peterkin called to see us, and offered to do all in his power for our release and comfort; and soon after his departure we were sent into the hospital, with an order that we be made as comfortable as possible until the arrival of the next flag of truce, when we were to be paroled and sent North.

Mr. Brengle and Leonard Brink were at this time brought from the citizens' room and placed in hospital with us. They were much emaciated from want of fresh air and sufficient diet, but soon recovered a part of their former flesh and elasticity of spirit.

While in the hospital, everything was done that circumstances would admit of being done for our comfort; the surgeons were gentlemanly, kind and attentive to our necessary requirements, doing all they could to modify the restraint of prison discipline, and to make us feel as contented as was possible. Remained in hospital till September 2d, at which time an order was issued for the removal of all citizens to Castle Thunder; and though Mr. Scandlin was at the time suffering with a scorbutic limb, and I was ill with dysentery, we were moved to the Castle just about dark, and placed in a damp, vacant room on the ground floor, without beds, blankets, or any conveniences whatever, there to remain as best we could till morning should reveal our whereabouts, for it was dark when we entered. The morning light revealed to us a room about forty by twenty feet, with two grated windows on one side, a grated door at one end, a tub partially full of dirty water, intended to be used for drink, another nearly full of the excrements of thirty-two persons, who had been confined there during the night, many of them suffering from diarrhœa; two or three sailors' chests, which some of our number had brought with them, and a squad of tired, emaciated men. Breakfast, a large piece of bread and 4 ounces of boiled meat, was served in this apartment, without any means having been adopted to purify the atmosphere or remove the noisome tubs, and then we were examined preparatory to being sent to different parts of the building, as fate and the inspector might decree. Mr. Scandlin succeeded in having all our party (four persons) placed in the same room, (I was too ill at the time to care where we went,) and the Commissary very kindly loaned me a mattress to keep my bones from the floor; the prisoners in the room with us were very kind, and my own party were unremitting in their care of me.

During our sojourn in Libby we had managed by means of letters, some of which are appended to this document, and messages, to keep the authorities aware of our confinement, but on reaching Castle Thunder all communication with the outer world seemed to be cut off. But, thanks to Mr. Scandlin's energy and perseverance, a way was found to make our presence felt, and permission was obtained for a personal interview with Commissioner Ould. At this time I was very lame, and the active duties devolved on Mr. S., who had partially recovered from his lameness, and he went to see the Commissioner; returned with a promise that we should be released and sent North by the next flag of truce boat that took prisoners; this was about the 10th of September, and we waited patiently as possible the arrival of a boat. About September 15th a boat came up, but went back without prisoners, and we were compelled to wait till the night of the 21st, when we moved to Libby, paroled "not to bear arms or perform any of the duties of a soldier until regularly exchanged," and were sent into the hospital to remain till morning. One of our number, Mr. A. F. Brengle, was retained, he having been captured while returning from Harper's Ferry, and the Commissioner deciding that he was not a regular employé of the Commission; that he was taken while in the act of relieving a beleaguered garrison, and therefore must remain for the present. Our colored boy, Moses Gardner, was left at Libby, the Confederate Commissioner refusing to release him. I learned from some of the prisoners that he had acknowledged to having been previously a slave.

Tuesday, September 22d.—At 5 A. M. were off for the cars, and were soon on the road to City Point, where we arrived at 11 A. M. Found that General Meredith had been part way down the river the previous day, but had very kindly returned to await the arrival of Gen'l Graham and our party, whom he welcomed in a true friendly spirit; his kind and thoughtful act of returning to City Point saved us a series of inconveniences, and hastened our arrival in Washington several hours. During the trip he was very attentive and courteous, expressing his warmth and depth of feeling not by words alone, but by impressive action.

At Fortress Monroe were greeted by Mr. Gall, (in his own words,) "the last employé of the Commission to part from us on our departure for, and the first to greet us on our return from, Richmond."

Wednesday, 23d.—Left Fortress Monroe

at 6.30 P.M.; arrived in Baltimore at 5.30 of the succeeding morning, whence, after a warm greeting from the agents of the Commission at that place, we proceeded to Washington, arriving about 12 M., and immediately reported at the Central Office.

Having secreted and secured our money from capture, we were enabled, by remaining with the privates during the march, to relieve some individual cases of suffering by furnishing food, by cheering the desponding and encouraging the weak; also by caring for the sick and wounded, so long as they remained with us. It has been our endeavor, during the entire term of imprisonment, to perform our duties as agents of the Commission whenever opportunities were presented; and we have not always waited for the work to come to us, but have endeavored to go to it.

The day succeeding our arrival at Libby, I dispatched a note to "Capt. Turner, Commandant of the Prison," requesting a personal interview with him; the request was granted the following morning, and I then detailed to him the objects for which we were sent out, the operations of the Sanitary Commission in times past, and the circumstances attending our capture, requesting his advice and influence in obtaining our release. By his advice, I immediately forwarded to Commissioner Ould, by the hands of Capt. Turner, a letter, dated July 31st, the substance of which is contained, as nearly as I am able to remember, in my letter to Lieut. Latouche, August 28th. Hearing no word from Mr. Ould, I sent another similar communication some days later to Gen'l Winder, and August 15th received a verbal message from Lieut. Latouche, then acting Commandant of the Prison, requesting a statement of our capture, which I sent immediately, and at the end of which I enumerated the amount of property taken with us. August 27th this statement was returned, endorsed, "*Get a complete statement of the details. The writer of the inclosed seems* MORE *troubled about his* PROPERTY *than his* LIBERTY. What say the others?" or words very similar.

I sent the letter of August 28th to Lieut. Latouche in answer to the above, and inclosed in it an article cut from the *Philadelphia Enquirer* of July 22, entitled "Hospitals at Gettysburg." The next day received letter from Mr. Gall, of Aug. 27th, a copy of which accompanies the other documents, and immediately commenced collecting certificates, of which I transmit copies, also a statement of their disposition. We were not idle in sounding our trumpet in the call for Liberty, and but few days of our captivity passed without some of the Richmond officials being made aware of our presence in their citadel and capitol. I must add a few words of commendation for the patient, self-sacrificing zeal of my companions in captivity.

Mr. SCANDLIN proved to be all, and *more* than all he professed; constantly engaged in some good work, cheerful under the most adverse circumstances, ever ready to render aid and comfort to all in distress, he has become endeared not only to the agents of the Commission with whom he has been so long associated, but to most of the officers and men whom chance and the fortunes of war have placed in his path. He sought out the sick and inquiring, gave them freely, cheerfully, temporal and spiritual comfort at all times and in all seasons. He has proved himself to be an honest, faithful worker and a TRUE man, "the noblest work of God."

Mr. Breggle had been confined in the citizens' room from the time of reaching Richmond till August 10th—a period of about twenty days—had become much reduced in strength and size from the effects of hard fare and close confinement, yet was always cheerful, hopeful, and disposed to make the best of everything. It was with feelings of deep regret that we learned of the determination to hold him prisoner, even after our release. There is at present a faint hope of our being able to effect a special exchange for him soon.

Leonard Brink had also been confined with the citizens till the time of our removal to hospital, and his frame showed a decided want of fleshy covering when he joined us in our new quarters. Decent prison fare soon proved a benefit to him, and his patient, contented disposition aided greatly in restoring him to something like his former dimensions.

Hoping the results of this expedition

may prove of benefit to the cause for which we are laboring, with many thanks to the several members of the Commission who have labored so assiduously in obtaining our release, and with the sincere hope that there may never again be cause for such exertions.

WHAT WE HAVE AND WHAT WE NEED.

SANITARY COMMISSION,
CENTRAL OFFICE, 244 F ST.,
Washington, D. C., Oct. 3, 1863.

DEAR MISS COLLINS—The time is at hand when the chill autumn nights, to be followed by the frosts and snows of winter, will take the place of the heats of summer, and the cry of the army patients and surgeons will be for warm clothing and bedding, instead of for cotton garments, mosquito netting and fans. However thankful we may be for the successes of the Union arms, and however certain of their eventual triumph, there seems to be no sound reason for believing that the war will end very speedily; and, while it lasts, we may be sure that the women of the country will insist on their privilege of supplementing, in articles of comfort and delicacies suitable for the sick and wounded in hospital, the necessaries which Government so liberally provides for their husbands, lovers, sons and brothers in the field. While recognizing this, our experience during the last two winters reminds us of the necessity of preparing in season for the extensive calls which will soon commence, and which will continue throughout the winter—for warm clothing and bedding, quilts and blankets, woolen under-clothing and socks, will, judging by the past, be the articles of this kind most in demand; after these, bed and pillow-ticks, warm thick dressing gowns or wrappers, slippers, sheets, pillow-cases, towels and handkerchiefs. Of eatables, the chief demand will doubtless be, as heretofore, for stimulants of every kind; jellies and farinaceous food, dried fruits and preparations of beef, milk and vegetables.

I inclose with this a schedule showing the amount of stock in the Washington depots, at this date, of these and other articles most in demand. In a parallel column is shown their aggregated amount in the storehouses of our branches in Philadelphia, New York and Boston, according to the latest weekly reports furnished by them to this office. By this you will perceive that our stock of blankets, quilts, woolen drawers, bed-ticks, pillow-ticks, wrappers, dried fruit, farina, stimulants, and jellies, is very low; and that, so far as most of the articles are concerned, the same is true of the stock of most of our branches. You will not fail to observe that appearances indicate a return of our old trouble in collecting woolen drawers in quantities sufficient to match the woolen shirts; for while we have on hand 7,978 of the latter, we have only 440 of the former. In view of this indication, according as it does with our past experience on this head, I would suggest the propriety of your calling special attention among your correspondents to the fact, and of requesting them to organize their sewing labors so as to secure proportions of shirts and drawers more nearly equal. You will also observe that we have on hand but 20 pillow-ticks, 20 sponges, 3 bottles of gin and 3 of brandy; while our branches have none of any of them; that we have but 4 wrappers, and 3 barrels of dried fruit; and that the united stock of this depot and those of our branches is of the following articles, only: blankets 401, abdominal bandages 290, bed-ticks 580; (we had yesterday an order from the army of the Potomac for 500 bed-ticks.)

Your experience has doubtless led you to the same conclusion as my own, namely: that for our supplies of made-up dry-goods, by which I refer to quilts, under-clothing, socks, &c., and of made-up eatables—I mean jellies, preserves, pickles, dried fruit, &c.—we shall have to depend in great part on our country contributors; while for imported liquors and wines, preparations of beef and milk, and for fine groceries generally, our dependence must be almost entirely on those in the cities, or rather on the funds contributed by city residents; for the major part—I may say nearly all—of this latter expensive description of stock has hitherto been purchased directly from the dealers by the Commission and its branches. It would therefore be well, I think, that our methods and correspondence should be

simultaneously conducted with reference to these ascertained facts, and that we should make the most of the advantages afforded by what have been demonstrated to be the natural channels of supply, rather than that we should endeavor to force the current into those which our theories incline us to regard as the legitimate ones.

The excess of the stock on hand of linen rags, lint and bandages, over the current demands in almost all the depots tributary to the Commission, was, in the early part of the year, so great that some of the correspondents of this office proposed to sell their overplus to the paper manufacturers, and use the proceeds in the purchase of supplies, of which there existed a deficiency. I was impressed, however, with the conviction that this surplus would be but temporary, and that it simply resulted from the accumulations of old linen made before the commencement of the war in the households of the country; while I thought that the exhaustion of this accumulation, and the high prices for the basis of this kind of stock ruling in the market since the commencement of hostilities, would prove an effectual bar to such supplies in the future. I stated my impressions on this subject to my correspondents, and I am happy to say they were dissuaded from carrying out their intention. On reference to the figures, you will perceive that the aggregated amount of these materials now on hand in this depot and in those of our branches is only 236 barrels.

If this stock should, by the chances of war, be heavily drawn upon within a month or two, I am inclined to think that some exertion will be required to replenish it in sufficient quantities throughout the winter.

In reviewing our labors in the past and anticipating our prospects for the future, it cannot fail to afford matter of remark and congratulation to realize the extraordinary support which has been extended to the Commission, and through it to the National cause, by the loyal women of the country; for while money has been freely provided for its treasury by the rich men of the country, from the Pacific to the Atlantic coasts, the articles of clothing and the delicacies in the way of food provided by the women—rich and poor alike—have tenfold exceeded in cash value the donations of the former. And it will perhaps encourage your correspondents to know what I can assure them is the truth—that of some twenty thousand (20,000) cases of invoiced goods, many of them containing articles valued at several hundred dollars, which have been forwarded to this depot of the Commission, not more than one or two have failed to reach us. And it may also be satisfactory to know that the proportion of money expenditure for their distribution, made by the Commission for the various purposes of the remuneration of its employés, rent, freight, postage, and all other incidental outlays, does not amount to much more than three (3) per cent. on the cash value of the distributions made through its agency to the soldiers of the country.

Very respectfully and truly yours,
(Signed) ALFRED J. BLOOR,
Assistant Secretary.

Miss Ellen Collins, *Chairwoman Com. Cor. and Supplies, Woman's Central Association of Relief, New York.*

THE RATE OF EXCHANGE.

Mr. E. B. Fairchild is employed at Point Lookout in the collection of statistics regarding the physique of the men in the rebel armies, and the following letter recently received from him contains some curious facts as to the comparative value of United States and Confederate money, as settled by the rebels themselves:

Sanitary Commission, Point Lookout, Oct. 27, 1863.

Dr. L. H. Steiner:

My Dear Sir—I received yesterday the table and chairs. They were very welcome. I am getting on pretty well with my work; the cold weather and storm of the past week have interfered with me somewhat. The rebs are quite thinly clad, and they don't like to take off coat and shoes in my tent, where there is no fire. I am about having a fireplace and chimney built, and shall try and make the comforts of my tent a temptation to them to stay with me long enough to be measured. I have been telling them that I expected my spirometer by every boat, and many of them are waiting for that before they are measured. I

wish it might be sent down as soon as possible. The poor rebs suffer a good deal; many are almost entirely without shirts, very few of them have overcoats, and all are obliged to sleep on the ground, most of them in A tents, with three very much worn blankets for six men. There is a good deal of scurvy among them, contracted at Ft. Delaware; there is also considerable small-pox. Yesterday afternoon, as I had little to do, I accepted the invitation of one of them to walk through the camp; the first time I have been beyond my own tent. The main street is their *exchange*, and of all the bartering and "dickering" this beats anything I ever saw. The street was crowded, as I am informed it is from morning to night; here on the side of the street one was making coffee from the *grounds* taken from the cook-house, which he was selling for two dollars and a half "Confederate," or five cents "greenbacks," a cup. Another had half a dozen apples, and was crying out "Here's your nice apples, two for three dollars;" another, "Here's your hard-tack, five for a dollar;" another, "Here's your nice tobacco, one chaw for a dollar." While I was standing still looking on, I was beset on all sides to give tobacco for rings. One fellow wanted to sell me a pipe. I asked him the price: "Two dollars and a half 'Confederate, or *five cents greenbacks*,' I don't care which." They sell everything. I saw one man who had no shirt on, who had just received one from the Provost Marshal, trying to sell it for tobacco. They make bricks of clay, which they dry in the sun, of which they make chimneys with fireplaces to warm their tents. They used to make them for two dollars and a half a hundred, or five cents "greenbacks;" but recently some of our soldiers have been buying them, and they have raised the price to twenty-five cents a hundred, equivalent to twelve and a half dollars a hundred Confederate. I made a bargain with one of them yesterday to build me a chimney. He charged me thirty-four *dollars*, and thought me very liberal when I offered him fifty-cents in "greenbacks." There is a good deal of Confederate money among them; some of the men are buying it up. A rebel sergeant showed me $18,000 to-day. I wish you could come down here for a couple of days. It would pay you well if you could spare the time. The last measurement I have taken is No. 555. I have done a good day's work to-day.

Very respectfully,
(Signed) E. B. FAIRCHILD.

THE SANITARY COMMISSION AT GETTYSBURG.

The following has reference to the testimony borne to the value of the labors of the Commission on the field at Gettysburg, by Mr. John F. Seymour, a brother of Governor Seymour of this State:

To the Editor of the Utica Morning Herald.

Our townsman, Mr. John F. Seymour, has spent eight days at Gettysburg and in its neighborhood, ministering to the wants of our wounded soldiers. In a letter just received from him, after speaking of their condition—"some in churches, some in barns, some in tents among forest trees, some in tents on open fields, some under such shelter as a farmer would be ashamed to show for his cows, some under blankets hung over cross-sticks, and some without even so much shelter as that," he says: "The United States Medical Department, which is not excelled by any in the world for efficiency, has made ample provision for 10,000 wounded soldiers—its officers and medicines were on the battle-ground—but when the enemy retreated from Gettysburg they left 11,000 wounded men in buildings, and on open fields, and in the woods; and thus 20,000, instead of 10,000, men were immediately to be cared for in a small village and in a farming country already pillaged or partly exhausted by Lee's army. The railroad, which might have brought supplies, was broken up for miles, and the telegraph wires and poles were down. What of the Sanitary Commission in this emergency? Everything that is praiseworthy. The Medical Department could not have got along without that and the Christian Commission. The soldiers would have starved to death without their aid. As soon as the railroad was repaired the Sanitary Commission sent an ice-car daily from Philadelphia, loaded with fresh meats, milk and vegetables. With its ambulances it poured in among the suffering multitude thousands of pounds of bread and meat, clothing, blankets, bandages, beef-tea, condensed milk, liquors, and, in short, everything that human kindness could devise was gathered up by the wide benevolence of this Commission, and poured out among the wounded soldiers, friend and foe alike, until they were more than supplied. I can-

not sufficiently express my admiration and gratitude for the Sanitary and Christian Commissions. The Sanitary Commission is worthy of all the aid and confidence which its most zealous friends in Utica have ever claimed for it. Fully to appreciate its labors you need to *witness* the wants and sufferings of the thousands of wounded and dying scattered over miles of country around Gettysburg."

Mr. Seymour speaks further of the condition of the wounded, and then adds:

"Imagine, if you can, all these things, and then you may understand something of the value and the necessity of a Commission like this, to which the citizens of Utica have so wisely contributed." He says: "In addition to the Sanitary and Christian Commissions, delegations from Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Michigan and other States have been at Gettysburg, striving to mitigate the pain and where the wants of these wounded soldiers."

Mr. Seymour speaks of the impression which, he fears, prevails in relation to the conduct of the people of Gettysburg after the battle, and concludes thus:

"Doubtless, miserable wretches are to be found there, as in every other place, who have extorted money from soldiers and strangers;—but it should be recollected that the village and surrounding country had been occupied by Lee's hungry army before the battle. The people were worn out by excitement and terror—by the presence and conflict of great armies—and then came 20,000 wounded men, and thousands of anxious friends, all crowding in upon the inhabitants. There was scarcely a house that was not filled with strangers, occupying beds, sofas and floors. The exhausted inhabitants fed and lodged them with the greatest hospitality. That there were instances of shameful impositions cannot be denied; but they would have been practiced anywhere. At Gettysburg they were only the exceptions to a generous hospitality of a people who had difficulty in providing for themselves."

These extracts from Mr. Seymour's letter will, I am sure, be read with interest. If any additional testimony were required of the ceaseless labors and vigilance, the wise and benevolent action, and the indispensable necessity of the Sanitary Commission, it is furnished, at least to us, by what is here said by a fellow-citizen who is so well known and so highly and justly esteemed as Mr. Seymour.

The ladies of Utica who have been so long and so patiently, industriously, and effectively engaged in contributing to the supplies of the Commission, will find some reward for their self-sacrificing labors in Mr. Seymour's statements, and will be excited to continued and increased efforts in behalf of such an instrumentality of mercy, (as is the Sanitary Commission,) to those who are offering up their lives in defence of all that is dear to them and to us all.

Your readers, Mr. Editor, know that subscriptions of monthly contributions to the funds of the Ladies' Society were quite extensively made in the city during the last spring. The sums subscribed are payable to Mr. Thomas Buchanan, at the Savings Bank of Utica. If they are all promptly paid it will enable the society to continue its good work without any labor or anxiety about funds, and without any further call upon our citizens for pecuniary aid. There is a large amount of the subscriptions in arrear. The subscribers are *urgently requested to pay arrearages immediately, and hereafter to pay promptly on the first Friday of every month, according to the terms of the subscription.* Unless this is done it will be necessary to employ a collector, which will involve considerable expense, and so far diminish the fund, every dollar of which should be devoted to the direct object of the society.

THE HOSPITAL DIRECTORY.

"ONE INQUIRY AND ONE ANSWER."

The working of this machinery, erected by the Commission for the supply of information with regard to patients in the various United States Hospitals, is well illustrated by the following facts taken from Mr. H. S. Holbrook's report from Louisville, Ky., of Sept. 1, 1863:

An old man enters the office. He has traveled from Northern Ohio to meet his son in this city; he has been told to inquire at the Sanitary Commission rooms for direction to the hospital which contains him. While the clerk turns to the books, he chats of his son and home, of the different articles in his carpet-bag, put in by mother and sisters at home—each had sent some little comfort. He is all animation and hope, as if at the very door which is to admit him to the realization of all his happy anticipations. The *record* says—"died"—that very morning! The *register* says, "one inquiry, one answer." It does not speak of the careful preparatory suggestions that sympathy tenderly makes towards the announcement of the saddening fact. It does not show that strong old man convulsed and weeping like a child. You see not his departure from the office stunned with grief. You feel not the stifled thanks of his farewell grasp—full payment for all your sympathy and care. He goes slowly and sadly away. One of the clerks accompanies him, who procures a burial-case for the remains of his "poor boy," and assists him in all his preparations for his mournful journey

home on the same day. The register says —"one inquiry, one answer."

"A mother from Northern Indiana has received a dispatch that her son is sick in Nashville; she is on her way to see him; she applies for a pass, but passes for ladies are seldom granted, and not without a permit from head-quarters. Her credentials are all right, but she is told that it is more than doubtful if she is permitted to go. She comes to the Directory; her son's name is on the books; "telegraphing is expensive, and the result doubtful." "'Tis too bad," she exclaims, "I have seven sons, and all of them in the army; I do not wish them away, but I do want, if they get sick, the privilege of going to nurse them." "My dear madam, you shall go; that fact will get you a pass," and so it did. The register says, "one inquiry, one answer."

A sprightly young wife is sent from the telegraph office to have a dispatch written for a permit to visit her husband in Nashville. She is quite impatient at the useless delay in consulting the records for his name. "She *knows* he is in Nashville, and all she wants is a dispatch written, and will be obliged for as much haste as possible." "Are you sure he is in Nashville ?" "Certainly." "You would have no objections to meeting him here ?" "You are playing with me, sir; will you give me the dispatch ?" "I don't think you will need one. This 'abstract' will please you better. *There* are directions where to find your husband, a few blocks off." With one look, to be sure she was not being "played" with, she was off from the office down street at what he would have called the "double quick," and found him *not* in *Nashville.* Had she not come to the Directory, possibly she might have obtained a pass to Nashville, and gone; or failing in that, would have gone home without seeing him.

A short time ago this case came under our notice. A soldier in hospital in Nashville writes to his wife that he is very sick, and requests her to come to him. The letter was dated the 5th Sept. Two days afterwards he is transferred to Louisville, but his letter informing her of the change never reached her. She leaves home and stops over night in Louisville, and goes to Nashville on the 15th. There she learns that he is in Louisville. Delayed for lack of funds, she returns to this city on the 22d and finds that he died on the night of the 16th, the next night after she lodged in the same city, so near to each other, yet never to meet. Had she known of the Hospital Directory, and consulted it, this lifelong grief would have been prevented.

A father desires to visit a sick son. His statements accord with our record. The dispatch written for him explains the case.

"To Brig.-Gen. J. A. Garfield, Chief of Staff, Murfreesboro', Tenn.: Had four sons in army; two are dead; two belong to the 89th Ohio, Co. ——. William C—— is sick at Gallatin, hospital four. Please grant pass. A. C——.

J. S. Newberry, Voucher."

The pass was granted.

A father from Pennsylvania presents a letter from the surgeon of a hospital in Nashville, saying that his son will be discharged, and sent to this city in care of the Sanitary Commission, and requests the father to meet him here. He asks, "Where is he ?" We have no note of his arrival. "He must still be in hospital at Nashville. But stay; here is a report just in." The name is there, and died August 9, 1863, the very day the father received the letter, and set out to meet him. His son had sent him word not to bring more money than necessary to pay his fare to Louisville, as he was paid off and had enough. What was to be done ? We loaned him his passage home; made out the necessary papers to get the effects of his son; wrote to Nashville to Sanitary Commission agents to forward them, and he left for home that evening.

We might multiply similar cases indefinitely, each one possessing some peculiarity to vary the service, needed to meet the wants of the applicant. But these must suffice.

HEALTH OF THE BRITISH ARMY.

The following is a summary of the Report of the Deputy Inspector General, which has just been issued, for the year 1861:

It shows that among the troops serving in the United Kingdom, the admissions into hospital were 1.025 per 1,000 of mean strength, the deaths 91.24, and the constantly sick 54.54; a slight reduction from the previous year in all these particulars. Excluding the depots, because in them many are men with health impaired by service in unhealthy climates, the mortality among the troops was lower than that of the male population in the healthy districts of England under the age of 25, nearly identical with it between 25 and 30, but higher than that of the civil population above the latter age. The leading facts of the great prevalence of venereal and high mortality by tubercular diseases remained unchanged; the former having caused more than a third of all the admissions into hospital, and the latter above a third of the total deaths. The admissions into hospital for venereal diseases amounted to 354 per 1,000 of mean strength, equal to more than one man in every three; and the inefficiency thus caused was equal to the loss of the services of every soldier at home for 8.56 days, being a trifle under the amount in the preceding year. The admissions per

1,000 of strength from this cause reached 487 at Manchester, 485 at Portsmouth, 470 at Plymouth, 469 at Belfast, 399 at Woolwich, 361 at Aldershot; in London and Windsor they were 328 among the Foot Guards, but only 135 among the Household Cavalry. Diseases of the respiratory system, influenza, and tonsillitis were less prevalent than in the previous year; they prevail most among the dock-yards and arsenals, a result probably of the greater amount of duty and exposure of the men. There were 33 instances of accidental death by drowning—a strong hint that the men should be instructed in swimming. The infliction of corporal punishment varied in the year from 1 per 1,000 in London and Windsor, to 2.9 in the large manufacturing towns. In the cavalry, artillery, and infantry regiments, the whole mortality in the year was lower than that (7.41) in the most healthy districts of England; but this comparison is made after the elimination of diseased lives from the ranks of the army by invaliding, and the invaliding in all arms except the Household Cavalry, was higher than 1860. The strength of the army having been raised above the authorized establishment, it became necessary to reduce it, and for this purpose a number of the least efficient men were discharged, who, under ordinary circumstances, would have continued to serve. If the deaths of men invalided in 1861, and who died before the end of that year, be included in the calculation, the returns for 1861 show an increase in the mortality of the Cavalry and Foot Guards, but a decrease in that of the Artillery, Military Train and Infantry regiments; and the ratio of deaths per 1,000 of strength becomes 10.54 in the Household Cavalry, 8.43 in the cavalry of the line, 7.73 in the Royal Artillery, 12.19 in the Foot Guards, and 9.05 in the infantry regiments. The mortality by tubercular diseases was very high in the Household Cavalry, but it is an accidental fluctuation, arising from the small numbers under observation. Omitting these troops and the depots, which included men sent home for change of climate, the proportion of deaths by tubercular diseases is remarkable for its uniformity in all the arms, ranging between 2.41 per 1,000 in the cavalry of the line and the Foot Guards, and 2.75 in the Military Train. But it is in diseases of this class that the effect of invaliding, in reducing the mortality, must be most strikingly seen. Combining the mortality and the invaliding, which is the only way of arriving at a correct conclusion, the ratios of decrease (through tubercular disease) by deaths and invaliding, were 8.41 per 1,000 in the Royal Artillery, 8.68 in the infantry regiments, 12.18 in the cavalry of the line, 13.75 in the Military Train, and no less than 18.07 in the Foot Guards, or twice as great as in the artillery or infantry. These proportions are considerably higher than in 1860, but the more extensive invaliding must be borne in mind. Delirium tremens is only entered as the cause of death in two instances in 1861, and it gave rise to fewer admissions into hospital than in the preceding years; so also did "intemperance." The admissions from delirium tremens and ebriositas conjointly, were 3.28 per 1,000 of mean strength in the Household Cavalry, 5.38 in the cavalry of the line, as high as 6.39 in the Royal Artillery, 4.47 in the Foot Guards, and 5.65 in the infantry regiments. In the depots, the admissions for these diseases, the direct result of drinking, were generally considerably higher. It is remarkable that the ratio of admissions into hospital in some corps is double that in others, and that for a considerable part of the year, the most sickly and the most healthy corps were stationed at the same place.*

From the Mediterranean stations the returns are generally satisfactory; but Gibraltar contributes a high ratio of invalids from pulmonary and cardiac diseases; and disease resulting from immorality, though much less than in the army at home, has increased, notwithstanding the police regulations. In Canada, also, there is an increase of this class of cases, but the amount is still much below that shown in the home returns; and the returns of sickness generally, both from Canada and Nova Scotia, present a very satisfactory result when compared with those relating to the troops serving at home. The report from British Columbia indicates a remarkably healthy condition of the troops—a detachment of the Royal Engineers. In a force of 130 men there was but one death—that of a sapper, who was frozen to death while returning to head-quarters from a surveying expedition. From the West Indies, the returns show a great improvement over the previous year, but the mortality among the black troops is still very heavy. In Jamaica, the ratio constantly sick was only 29.87 per 1,000 among the white troops, but 52.23 among the black—a difference which is traced to the circumstance of the black troops being quartered in the low lands, where intermittent fevers are rife, while the white troops were in the more healthy climate of Newcastle. In Western Africa, the mortality of the troops (black) considerably exceeded 40 per thousand—a

* There is very little doubt that the difference in the rate of admissions into hospital in different corps, noted here, is, other things being equal, due to difference in the officers. Great inattention to the health and comfort of the men, in the sanitary condition of the quarters, on the part of the officers, over-rigid discipline, and a harassing amount of drill, it is well known, have a large influence in developing disease, if only by driving the men into vicious courses as a means of distraction.

mortality greatly above the average of the two preceding years. It is attributed partly to the fatigue and exposure of the men in two expeditions of a hostile nature. The returns from the Cape of Good Hope show a considerable improvement in most respects. The principal medical officer notices the prevalence of disease of the heart, and attributes it in great part to intemperance, keeping up an excitement of the circulation, aggravated by high atmospheric temperature. From Mauritius the return is, for that climate, remarkably favorable, owing, it is supposed, to the influence of two hurricanes. In Ceylon, the mortality was high, nearly 20 per 1,000, but still much below the average of the two previous years. In Australia the mortality was as high as 15.44 per 1,000; and in New Zealand also, deducting men killed in action, the mortality was considerably above the average; in both these colonies rheumatism was the chief cause of invaliding. In Southern China the mortality fell to 23 per 1,000; but in the north, where a large garrison was left at Tien-tsin, it was more than double that ratio, and reached 54 per 1,000. The deaths from miasmatic diseases were 31.80 per 1,000 in the north, and only 12.58 in the south. The diseases especially fatal in the north were dysentery, diarrhœa, and cholera. Diseases caused by immorality were only half as common in the north as in the south; in the south the admissions into hospital from this cause reached 511 per thousand; but their prevalence among the native troops, as compared with the European, was in proportion of only one to seven. The average number constantly sick among the European troops, was in South China as high as 283 per 1,000, and in North China 205; 392 men, 63.8 per 1,000 of mean strength, were sent home to England for change of climate, and the number finally discharged the service as invalids in 1861 was 116, or 18.88 per 1,000 of strength. The climate of Tien-tsin is described as remarkably dry, and there is great predominance of blue sky at all seasons; the thermometer ranged in 1861 from 108 deg. to—1.5 deg. Lastly we have the returns from India. Out of an average force of 57,082 of her Majesty's troops, 2,097 men died, 36.74 per 1,000. The chief mortality was in Bengal, and was occasioned by the severe epidemic of cholera, which caused more than half the total mortality in that Presidency. Exclusive of the deaths by it, the ratio of mortality in Bengal amounted to only 22 per 1,000, and the mortality in the two other Presidencies was much lower than in 1860; it was 15.13 in Madras, and 24.72 in Bombay. Nine men died from sun-stroke; 857, 15 per cent. of the average strength, were discharged the service as invalids in the course of the year.

WHERE YOUR GIFTS GO.

It is a white dusty ridge in Alabama; tall, slim oaks sprinkle it, and beneath them, in streets with a strange, far eastern look, stand the tents of one of those blessed cities of mercy—a field hospital. The sun pours hotly down; a distant drum snarls now and then as if in a dream; the tinkling concert of a cloud of locusts—the cicada of the South—comes, like the dear old sleigh-bells' chime, from a distant tree. "The loud laugh that tells the vacant mind" is unheard; the familiar sound of closing doors and children's carol never rises there; the tents swell white, and sad, and still. Within them lie almost three thousand soldiers, marred with all wounds conceivable, wasted with pain, parched with fever, wearily turning, wearily waiting to take up the blessed march. Ho, for the North! That is the word, the ever-abiding charmer that "lingers still behind." It is Stevenson; it is Nashville; it is Louisville; it is home; it is heaven. Alas for it, how they falter and sleep by the way! And every one of these men was *somebody's* boy once; had a mother once, a wife, a sister, a sweetheart; but "better is a friend that is near than a brother afar off," and now comes the blessed mission of woman. True, there are only two here in person, but how many in heart and work!

You have been thinking, my sisters, where is our work in all these scenes? That snowy roll of linen; that little pillow beneath the sufferer's head; that soft fold across the gashed breast; that cooling drink the rude, kind, stalwart nurse is putting to yonder boy's white lips; that delicacy this poor fellow is just partaking; that dressing-gown whose broidered hem those long, thin fingers are toying with; the slippers a world too wide for the thin, faltering feet; the dish of fruit a left hand is slowly working at, his right laid upon our Federal altar at Chickamauga, never to be lifted more. Your tree, my sister, bore that fruit; your fingers wrought, your heart conceived. "What do the women say about us boys at home?" slowly asked a poor wreck of a lad, as I sat by his side. That brow of his ached, I know, for the touch of a loving hand, "and the sound of a voice that is still." At the moment he asked the question he was turning over a little silken needle-book that one of you laughing girls made some day and tucked in a corner of a bag, labeled "United States Sanitary Commission." On the cover of that book you had wrought the words—playfully, perhaps—"My bold soldier boy." I silently pointed to the legend; the reply struck home to his heart; and he burst into tears. I assure you they were not bitter tears he shed, and as he wiped them away with a fine film of a

handkerchief you girls had hemmed for him, his question was twice answered, and he was content. His eyelids closed down, his breathing was regular; he had fallen asleep, and I thought it was the picture of the "Soldier's Dream" over again.

You hear of the mal-appropriation of your gifts, but never fear; one grain may fail, but two will spring up and blossom out into "forget-me-nots." Your work is everywhere. Go with me to that tent standing apart; it is the dead-house tent. Four boys in their brown blankets, four white wood coffins, four labels with four names on four still breasts. Two of the four garments the sleepers wear are of linen from your stores, stitched by your fingers. Verily, the Ladies' Soldiers' Aid Societies should be named "Mary," for are they not like her of old, "last at the cross and earliest at the grave?"—*From B. T. Taylor's Chattanooga Correspondence with the Chicago Journal.*

RELIEF OF OUR PRISONERS IN RICHMOND.

The following report will, it is hoped, supply all needed information as to what can be done, and what has been done by the Commission for the relief of the Union soldiers now confined at Richmond.

U. S. Sanitary Commission, No. 823 Broadway, New York, Nov. 11, 1863.

The Rev. H. W. Bellows, D.D., President of the U. S. Sanitary Commission:

Sir—In reply to your request accompanying the letter of the Rev. —— ——— of the 10th inst., which asked what had been, and what could be done by the Commission for the relief of Union men in the Richmond prisons, I have the honor to report, following the order of Mr. ——'s inquiries:

1. The supplies of clothing and reading matter mentioned on page 30 of the Sanitary Commission Bulletin of Nov. 1, of which I have sent a copy to Mr. ——, were contained in 15 cases. From Gen. Neal Dow we have the acknowledgment of the receipt by him of 13 of these cases, and of his partial distribution of them among the officers confined with him at Libby prison. He was expecting on the 1st inst. to obtain permission the next day to complete the distribution among the privates on Belle Isle.

2. The Commission has, since the receipt of these advices from Gen. Dow, sent to him a consignment of concentrated food, beef stock for making soup, condensed milk, extract of coffee, sweet chocolate, &c. This is evidently experimental. Should these articles reach our braves without being made to pay heavier tribute on the way than did the first consignment, the Commission will of course keep up a steady supply.

3. The Sanitary Commission has been unwilling to assume any responsibility for transmitting packages of either food or clothing to specified individuals at Richmond. Its supplies sent there, as in its general relief service, are sent to those who need them most. Its channel of relief, somewhat limited by the Confederate authorities, would be speedily choked, if it was open to consignments for individuals. To show how important the Commission considers this rule, I may mention that one of its own officers whose kinsman is languishing in Libby, is unwilling to appropriate its privileges for individual relief.

I may here say that Gen. S. A. Meredith, Commissioner for Exchange at Fortress Monroe, Va., is authorized by our Government to send on its account such supplies of clothing to our men imprisoned at Richmond as they may need and as the Confederate authorities will permit. The newspapers also assert that Gen. Meredith will receive packages for individuals, but of this I am not sure.

4. The Commission is not informed as to the methods by which the Government intends to protect its soldiers from sufferings such as they have recently experienced at Richmond, nor as to the prospect of a general exchange of prisoners, but it has asked of the Secretary of War the privilege of sending, with the assent of the Confederate authorities, to the Libby and Belle Isle prisons an accredited agent, who will be devoted to ministering to the necessities of our men there. An efficient and discreet person is now under appointment, only awaiting permission of the authorities to enter upon the mission.

Respectfully yours,

J. FOSTER JENKINS,

General Secretary of the U. S. Sanitary Commission.

By the steamer of October 31st, Messrs. J. B. Abbott, O. C. Bullard and W. S. Bullard sailed for New Orleans, to establish in the Department of the Gulf "Homes" and "Lodges" in connection with the special relief work of the Commission. And by the steamer of the 14th inst., Dr. E. A. Crane, sanitary inspector; Mr. Thomas Furniss, store-keeper; and Messrs. Edward Mitchell, Gordon Grant and John Stephens, Jr., relief agents, went out to the same department to reinforce the general working corps of the Commission in the extreme Southwest.

REPORT OF SPECIAL RELIEF DEPARTMENT.

(Continued from our last.)

Leaving Washington, we come next to Annapolis; here, in July last, a "Home for nurses, mothers, wives, and relatives of sick soldiers" was established, similar in its objects and methods to the "Nurses' Home" in Washington. It has met an evident need, and given to many wives and mothers, who came among strangers, seeking their sick husbands or sons, the shelter and welcome of a home. During the past two (2) months the number of meals furnished there has been 2,847; the number of nights' lodging 569. There have been as many as twenty-five women who found their rest here in a single night. The "Home" is conveniently located, and with an experienced matron in charge, is under the immediate supervision of Chaplain Henries, U. S. A.; it is performing a kind mission.

At Baltimore there has been a Special Relief agent, who has taken in hand the defective papers of discharged men, aided in collecting their pay, obtained transportation for those without means, and in general given "aid and comfort" to those needing it. His assistant, with great faithfulness, has visited every boat which has arrived from Fortress Monroe since the 1st of June last, and every train of cars from Washington or from the West, looking after, protecting, directing any soldiers who seem to need assistance; his record-book shows that he has thus given aid, more or less, to 4,627 from June 1st to Oct. 1st, of whom he has taken over 2,000 to the "Union Relief Rooms" of Baltimore, where they have received meals and lodgings with kindly care.

In Philadelphia, there has been much done by the "Woman's Penn. Branch U. S. Sanitary Commission," in the way of Special Relief, although the admirable local organizations of the city left comparatively a small amount to be done in that direction, excepting the work of helping families of soldiers. The "Free Pension Agency" of the Philadelphia Branch of the U. S. Sanitary Commission, under the efficient management of Mr. Ashman, has been doing a most valuable service; up to the present date Mr. Ashman has made out the pension papers for over one thousand applicants, and with painstaking care investigated and successfully followed out many peculiarly complicated cases. He also, without cost, collects all "claims" for discharged soldiers. Notices of this office and its aid are posted in the hospitals in that vicinity, and endeavors are made to secure its benefits to all discharged soldiers needing such assistance as it renders.

In New York, whatever Special Relief work has fallen upon the Commission has been attended to by the "Woman's Central Association of Relief;" with occasional exceptions, this work has consisted in judiciously assigning the applicant for aid to such existing Relief Association in the city as his case pointed to; or if more immediate assistance was needed, as clothes and transportation, such have been furnished. The local provisions in New York for assisting disabled soldiers are large, embracing the New England Rooms and the State Institution, "The New York Relief Association."

The following report from Boston will show the methods adopted there, and the results which have followed.

It is to be considered that this Relief work in Boston was not started until March last, its need until then hardly being acknowledged, yet the absolute necessity for its existence has been asserted by its results every day since. I make mention of this fact and give the report in full, in order to set an example and give the suggestion to the various large cities throughout the land, and I would ask, whether the associate members of the Sanitary Commission in such cities and large sea-coast or inland towns might not wisely and humanely establish "Homes" on a smaller or broader scale, as the case may be. At least they should, I am sure, carefully inform themselves of the nature of the needs in their midst, and the methods in detail by which those needs are to be met.

F. N. Knapp, *Special Relief Agent U. S. Sanitary Com'n, Washington, D. C.:*

My Dear Sir—I submit herewith a brief Report relating to the Special Relief ser-

vice of the Sanitary Commission in Boston.

This service was organized in the month of March, 1863, under the direction of an executive committee, appointed for the purpose by the resident associate members. The establishment, which is located at No. 76 Kingston Street, is in charge of a superintendent and assistants, and has been administered with the following results:

From the date of its organization to October 1, 1863, a period of about six months, aid has been rendered to 3,050 soldiers, classified as follows:

Furnished with transportation at Gov't rates	1,091
" " " paid by Com'n.	142
" " " by Quarterm'r.	450
" carriage within the city	875
" special attendance to their homes	71
" lodging	1,407
" meals—(No. of meals, 4,129)	1,938
" clothing—(No. of garments, 489)	260
" aid in arranging papers	96
" " obtaining pay	91
" medical advice	322
Wounds dressed	155
Procured commutation of rations	73
Loaned money—(amount, $10.02)	19
Gave money—(amount, $9.08)	28
Sent to Hospital	60
Referred to local Relief Associations	25
Enlisted	14
Obtained Pension	1
Procured Coffins	3
Total	3,050

The recipients are thus classified in the order of States: Massachusetts, 1,480; Maine, 926; New Hampshire, 210; Vermont, 31; New York, 54; Pennsylvania, 12; Ohio, 41; Rhode Island, 9; Maryland, 2; District Columbia, 7; Louisiana, 2; Illinois, 5; Iowa, 4; Minnesota, 5; California, 1; Connecticut, 6; U. S. Army, 70; U. S. Navy, 26; Invalid Corps, 45; Kansas, Wisconsin, Missouri, Kentucky, Delaware, Alabama, and Rebel Army, 1 each.

The following articles, drawn from the Supply Department of the N. E. Woman's Auxiliary Association, have been used in furnishing the rooms and for distribution:

Bedquilts, 13; blankets, 13; sheets, 124; pillows, 56; pillow-cases, 63; bed-sacks, 12; flannel shirts, 70; cotton shirts, 48; socks, 218 prs.; towels, 78; slippers, 62 prs.; old shirts, 51; cotton drawers, 106; dressing-gowns, 1; flannel drawers, 42; handkerchiefs, 60; slings, 16; flannel shirts, 24; 1 lot bandages and old pants; 6 tin cups and 2 water-pails.

I am unable to furnish you at present with an exact statement of the cost of the service for the last three months, ending October 1, but hand you herewith a full statement of expense account for the three months ending July 1, 1863, which period includes the first outlay for furnishing rooms, &c.

For the three months ending July 1, 1863, the total expenditure, covering the whole cost of the service, was $1,962 17, classified as follows:

For furnishing Rooms	$ 464 51
" " Hospital	254 82
" Rent and Taxes	118 50
" Salaries	363 59
" Advertising	185 00
" Printing	49 00
" Stationery	70 71
Traveling Expenses	45 00
Postage	8 09
Superintendent's Current Expense Ac't	320 03
Miscellaneous	83 01
Total	$1,962 17

For this period of three months the number of soldiers who received the aid of the Commission was 837.

Deducting from the total expenditure the first necessary outlay for furnishing rooms, $719 33, as shown in above statement of account, and as distinguished from the ordinary current expenses, the cost per soldier is shown to be as 837 to 1,242 $\frac{84}{100}$, or about $1.45 each.

Permit me to add that abundant evidence has been afforded that this service of the Commission, as already administered in Boston, has been attended with the most beneficent and gratifying results.

I am, my dear sir,

Very sincerely yours,

JNO. S. BLATCHFORD,

Sec'y of Boston Ex. Com. Sanitary Com.

BOSTON, *Oct.* 1*st*, 1863.

I pass now from the North to the West. The Special Relief work at the West, at three or four points, was established a year and more ago by the Branches of the Sanitary Commission; while at other points this work had not until within six or eight months its special place assigned to it, but it came in in connection with the general Relief work of the Commission. I have not the reports which would enable me to give the details of these Lodges and Homes at the West. I can only speak of their methods and their work in general terms, and give the gross results of their labors.

In general terms, then, the same Special Relief work is done at the West by the Commission and its Branches which has been described in detail at Washington; modified, of course, at each point, by the circumstances of the case. Thus, at one point there is no occasion for the correction of papers, but the largest occasion for shelter and care; at one station there is no call for clothing and nursing, but the loudest call for nutritious food; at one section a Home or Lodge has no place; in another section its open doors are like open arms to those ready to perish.

And thus, according to the needs which were to be met, have been the methods and amount of Special Relief throughout the entire West. And while I cannot furnish the detail of this work, I can with great confidence assert, that throughout that region an immense amount of Relief has thus been given to thousands and thousands of soldiers; and at all the several points of relief after Lodges have been established the aid has been given promptly, wisely, and abundantly. Could the records of these several Lodges and Homes have been copied they would, I am sure, make a living history, telling of how much soldiers have to bear, and yet what kindly helps are at hand to aid in making their burdens light; how much, with all alleviations, soldiers have to suffer, yet how nobly and patiently the suffering is borne; of weak limbs bound in with strong hearts; of eyes looking towards home, yet with feet firmly set towards the camp or battle-field.

I can, however, merely give in figures the numbers cared for at these Homes, as indicated by the number of Lodges and of meals furnished there to Oct. 1st. Part of these Homes, as I said, have been opened only seven or eight months—others from nearly the beginning of the war.

The following are some of the figures furnished by Dr. Newberry, Associate Secretary in charge of the Western Department of the U. S. San. Com. at Cleveland, Ohio:

Nights' lodging furnished	2,569
Meals given	12,227
Home at Chicago, Ill., (opened in July last.)	
Nights' lodging furnished	3,109
Meals given	11,325
Home in Cincinnati, Ohio.	
Nights' lodging (about)	10,000
Meals given	40,017
Home at Louisville, Ky.	
Nights' lodging	17,765
Meals given (at the Home)	52,080
" " (at the Station House).	49,933
Lodge at Nashville, Tenn.	
Nights' lodging	4,821
Meals given	11,909
Home at Cairo, Ill.	
Nights' lodging	79,550
Meals given	190,150
Lodge at Memphis, Tenn.	
Nights' lodging	2,850
Meals given	14,780

This note should be here made: that at Cincinnati, Louisville and Cairo, many besides *invalid* soldiers are included in the number of those fed and cared for. At these points, the Home of the Commandant drawing rations from Government for the purpose, has at times provided for detached companies, or parts of regiments, or even whole regiments; thus meeting the needs which in Washington and elsewhere are provided for at the "Soldiers' Rests," which are under the exclusive care of Government. This fact, in part, accounts for the numbers attached to the record of the Homes at those places, which might seem unaccountably large, if limited strictly to invalid soldiers receiving care.

The Special Relief work upon the Atlantic coast, from Newbern down, has been embraced in the general relief work of the commandant until recently. Arrangements are now made for establishing Homes and all facilities for special relief at all the points on the coast wherever there are large numbers of our troops.

[The appendix to this Report, containing facts bearing upon the question of the provision to be made for disabled discharged soldiers, will be presented hereafter in another connection.]

Mr. Knapp, our Associate Secretary, has just returned from Chicago, too late, unfortunately, for his account of the "Northwestern Fair," held in that city, to appear in this number of the BULLETIN. We shall publish it in our next. He describes the Fair as having been a great success.

REPORTS FROM THE WEST.

The reports this week relate almost entirely to the doings of the Commission in Tennessee. Dr. Warriner writes from Memphis, October 6:

Yours of the 29th ult., inclosing letter from Mrs. A. Hoge, dated in August, reached me yesterday. I went immediately to the rooms of the Christian Commission to ascertain their feelings towards our Commission, and to inquire into their methods of operating. They have not received any sanitary stores since their establishment here, and do not wish any. I proposed to turn over to them our miscellaneous reading matter, and receive from them in turn any boxes of sanitary stores which might chance to be forwarded to them. They cordially agreed to such arrangement. They have a very pleasant reading-room, supplied with secular and religious newspapers, including some of the prominent dailies, and an ample list of religious books.

Miscellany they are deficient in, and appreciate its value as an attraction to many who would not otherwise be induced to visit them.

Mr. Burnett has always been ready to assist me and second my efforts wherever in the field I have met him. He is at present absent from here, on a tour of humanity to Chattanooga. His associate here assures me that they are agreed and quite decided on the question of disbursing sanitary stores.

THE LODGE AT MEMPHIS.

Through the kindness of the Medical Department I have secured stoves for warming the Lodge.

Gen. Hurlburt has given me authority for purchasing fuel, to be paid for out of the contingent fund under his control. The Lodge is doing an excellent work. Mr. Christy's management of it is above criticism. He showed me his weekly report, forwarded to-day. There has been hitherto so extreme a caution on the part of authorities here in supplying to the Lodge various little appliances out of Government resources, that the items of expense to the Commission have inevitably accumulated to heavier sums than I had anticipated.

Mr. Christy's accounts are kept with great strictness, and, I am sure, perfect accuracy.

On the whole, it is apparent that this department has a heavier monthly expense than is reckoned in your office. The five hundred dollars brought me by Mr. Fogle did not pay up arrearages by considerable. I shall need as much more as soon as it can be sent to me. If I do not come North in a few weeks, I will make out a full account of all expense, and forward. I keep a strict account of every item spent for the Commission, of course; and somehow I find the Commission all the while in debt to me.

MR. ROBB.

Major Robb has been quite busy disbursing stores since I was here. I have been informed by several surgeons of a paper recently in circulation amongst them for their signatures, highly eulogistic of Mr. Robb, personally and officially; so much so, as to carry an implied depreciation of other Sanitary Agents. The persons who mentioned it to me had signed the paper, but were afterwards so painfully impressed with this feature of it, as to request that the paper be suppressed; they assured me that it had been. I warrant not wholly some use of it, some report of it, or reference to it, has gone to fruitful quarters, without a shadow of doubt. I have not yet felt it necessary to take this method of establishing myself at either end of the line of my operations. Robb has obtained a considerable portion of his late supplies from the Western Commission.

VEGETABLES.

People must be roused forthwith to the importance of sending *vegetables* to the army. We want enough to keep all hands busy disbursing them. We want enough to supply whole commands, and not merely the hospitals. We have none now. We can do no better service than feed the army with potatoes and onions. There certainly must be a sufficient surplus of these in the North to enable us to do it, if we can once get the subject sufficiently impressed upon the loyal producers of them. It has been only at brief and widely separated intervals that we have had supplies of these in adequate abundance to justify this general disbursement of them. Where it has occurred, the results have been in the highest possible degree satisfactory and beneficial. The effects are not to be weighed or estimated. No one thing has done so much to establish the reputation of the Commission with the army. And yet how very seldom we have been able to supplement commissary stores to this extent! If we could do it continually, we should prevent more sickness than our other efforts are able to relieve. I wish this notion could be preached all through the North, clamorously, and with power. Good old brother Chidlaw could do immeasurable good if he would concentrate his whole time and his magnificent good-will power for a season. I trust you will not neglect to call public attention to this express phase of Sanitary labor, and urge the

matter in all effective ways. Potatoes and onions for the whole army—make that the watchword; varying the monotony from time to time, by the addition of cabbage! But don't let people encumber us with other kinds of vegetables, unless, perhaps, tomatoes. Their value is incomparably less than that of those named.

The same gentleman writes again, October 23, from the same place:

Since my last a heavy requsition has come in from Iuka for stores, and especially *vegetables*, for 400 sick left by the moving Army Corps of General Sherman. A post hospital is established there temporarily, to continue according to needs and circumstances. A considerable portion of the Corps was still at Iuka at last accounts, but in an active and mobile condition. I was able to make a tolerably fair response to the requisition. But the rooms now are well-nigh bare again, and the demand eastward will not be likely to diminish for some time to come. I await impatiently the arrival of the Clara Bell. I hear indirectly that she was still lying at Cairo last Wednesday.

DIARRHŒA.

I have been employing my leisure for a couple of days visiting the general hospitals here, and examining some of the severe cases of illness.

The whole number of patients in all these hospitals is to-day 3,020; about 50 of these are cases of extreme exhaustion, and slight prospect of recovery. The exact number of wounded I did not learn; it is small. The remainder of the cases are in more or less advanced stages of convalescence. Increasing coolness of the weather is obviously operating favorably. I gave attention more especially to the all-afflicting scourge of the camp, diarrhœa. I find that men do actually recover from even the chronic stages of the disease. I noted down the cases of cure and death, as they stand on the registers of the several hospitals, commencing with September 1st. The results are as follows:

OVERTON HOSPITAL—SEPT. 1 TO OCT. 18.

	Chronic.	Acute.
Number of cases admitted	199	116
Returned to duty	12	6
Died	9	2

WEBSTER HOSPITAL—SEPT. 1 TO OCT. 1.

	Chronic.	Acute.
Number of cases admitted	160	1
Returned to duty	43	..
Died	13	..

UNION HOSPITAL—SEPT. 1 TO OCT. 19.

	Chronic.	Acute.
Number of cases admitted	176	7
Returned to duty	10	..
Died	49	..

JACKSON HOSPITAL—SEPT. 1 TO OCT. 20.

	Chronic.	Acute.
Number of cases admitted	95	8
Returned to duty	4	2
Died	34	1

GAYOSO HOSPITAL—SEPT. 1 TO OCT. 19.

	Chronic.	Acute.
Number of cases admitted	45	39
Returned to duty	3	2
Died	..	8

WASHINGTON HOSPITAL—SEPT. 1 TO OCT. 17.

	Chronic.	Acute.
Number of cases admitted	122	23
Returned to duty	21	5
Died	32	..

ADAMS HOSPITAL—SEPT. 1 TO OCT. 21.

	Chronic.	Acute.
Number of cases admitted	274	39
Returned to duty	37	15
Died	32	..

JEFFERSON HOSPITAL—SEPT. 1 TO OCT. 21.

	Chronic.	Acute.
Number of cases admitted	11	40
Returned to duty	..	..
Died	5	2

The other two army hospitals are for special disease, gangrene and small-pox. The naval hospital I did not visit, as I was compelled to make haste with this examination. I omitted many points that may hereafter prove interesting, and even important, and confined myself to the one point of the relative mortality from this disease. I am not prepared, without a much more thorough and prolonged comparison of cases under treatment, to touch the question as to how much the difference in the above results may be due to difference in the treatment or to other conditions and circumstances.

A VALUABLE SUGGESTION.

It strikes me that it would not be a bad job for the Sanitary Commission to undertake a connected and systematic inspection of all the general hospitals in the Northwest, with reference to the mortality or curability of the more prominent camp diseases. Personal inspection would be a necessary adjunct to the study of registers. Is this being done? It may be, and I not know it, naturally enough. Why wouldn't the undersigned be a very proper person to be detailed for a while to such a work? The building of more general hospitals in the North will, no doubt, be commenced at once. You have heard already of Mrs. Gov. Harvey's success at Washington in obtaining an order for a very large one at Madison, Wisconsin. Other applications from Illinois and other States will be speedily, if not already made, and doubtless with similar success. Results of such inspections as I refer to would or *might* be of great service, in indicating locality

for the new structures. At all events, it is plain that most valuable information could be obtained. But it is all but a suggestion.

VEGETABLES AGAIN.

Mr. Carpenter, of Wisconsin, has arrived from Vicksburg. He reports everything in order there and at Natchez, but vegetables well-nigh exhausted at both points, and the demand still feverish. I do not see how we can spare anything for New Orleans, after all, with our present supplies.

And this reminds me to recur to the work of lecturing or talking, or something of the kind, directly to the donors, and stimulating, if possible, a more abundant, more active, and more steady supply. If anything can be accomplished by it more attention should, it seems to me, be given to it.

Our reports from Chattanooga furnish much interesting information touching the state of things at the place during the momentous and critical period between the battle of Chickamauga and the reoccupation of Lookout Valley by Gen'l Hooker. It is doubtful whether our armies in the West have at any period since the beginning of the war been placed in a position of so much embarrassment and perplexity. The loss of the river and railroad surrounded the work of feeding the troops with difficulties that would have been serious under ordinary circumstances, but which were rendered almost appalling by the fact that several thousand wounded were lying at Chattanooga in want of almost everything. The well were on half rations, and the sick were dying for want of delicacies that to them were absolute necessaries.

Dr. Read writes from Chattanooga October 13:

After my last hastily written report, I spent some days at Stevenson and Bridgeport, directing my main efforts to the securing of transportation of stores to Chattanooga. The great want of all ordinary supplies at the latter place, and the interruption of telegraphic communication with head-quarters, made this a very difficult work. Frequently an order would be obtained for ten or twenty wagons, but at the time it was presented they were not at the post, and before they came in a special order would be received by the quartermaster to load all wagons with forage or with rations, which would be construed as countermanding the previous order. We succeeded in getting off a few loads and a considerable supply by ambulances, which were got through in safety and supplied the more pressing demands.

THE HOSPITALS AT STEVENSON.

While at Stevenson, I took the opportunity of going frequently through the field hospitals in charge of Dr. McKibben, and found the sick and wounded there well provided for and very comfortable. The food provided was of excellent quality, abundant, and of good variety, and the cooking excellent. There were two kitchens for each ward, one for the full-diet patients, and one for those of special diet, both well arranged and well furnished. I have visited no hospitals in the department where there was a better variety of well-prepared food than there. Large supplies of vegetables were obtained from the garden at Murfreesboro', including potatoes, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, &c., &c., in abundance, and such other articles as were required from the Sanitary Rooms.

This garden at Murfreesboro' was one of the fruits of General Rosecrans's forethought. It was made and planted during the months of inaction which the army passed at that place.

STATE OF THINGS AT CHATTANOOGA.

On the 28th and 29th, we succeeded in forwarding from Stevenson and Bridgeport seventeen wagon-loads of stores, the trains to make a junction at Battle Creek, and go through in special charge of Mr. Larrabee, who left Stevenson for that purpose; Mr. Redding escorting the train from Bridgeport until they met.

Receiving word from Dr. Anderson at Chattanooga, who was in temporary charge of the general work of the department, to report at that place, I rode through from Bridgeport on the 3d, by the Conner route, expecting to find our rooms full of stores. But they were entirely empty. Our men were living on hard-tack, bacon, and coffee, which could be purchased, only a few rations at a time, of the Commissary; horses and men all on short rations, and hard-tack fast becoming a luxury. A train of about 400 wagons had been destroyed on the 2d, and with it our 17 wagons, and all other trains temporarily stopped. About this time the last of our wounded were sent in from the rebel lines, who had suffered much in rebel hands, and were in want of all things. Some of them were without shirts, a few without any clothing whatever, the most fortunate with torn clothing, begrimed with dust and clotted with

blood. I purchased at the only army clothing store in town a few shirts, all I could obtain, and mainly with money furnished by the Rev. Mr. Heywood, of the Kentucky Branch, and gave one each to Frederick Coonrad, 65th O. V. I.; Van Buren Young, 3d Ky. V. I.; Joseph Bray, 18th U. S. I.; A. Q. Logsden, 8th Ky. V. I.; John J. Thompson, 92d Ills., and N. Care, 84th Ind. Upon the 6th I received notice that 8 wagon-loads of stores were on the way, and on the 7th procured an order for twenty wagons more to report at our rooms in Stevenson, taking forward stores.

DIFFICULTIES OF TRANSPORTATION.

The work of obtaining transportation I found beset with many and unlooked-for difficulties. The loss of a large train and the interruption of communication had produced some confusion; the army was short of all supplies, and the responsible officers of every department were clamorous for transportation. At the same time it was evident that the wounded men left here, numbering about 1,400, must be saved, if at all, by feeding, and that they must have something better than army rations. The sick also, of whom there are many, not an unusual number, stand in almost equal need of better articles of diet. By engaging to ship only articles of diet for the sick and wounded, and after long efforts cordially and ably seconded by the surgeons in charge of the sick and wounded, I have secured a train of twenty wagons, to be now constantly under our supervision in bringing stores from Stevenson, as long as the necessity shall exist, or until river or railroad communication is opened. I would recommend that a trusty, efficient man be detailed to take charge of this train, accompanying it both coming and going, bringing the invoices of the goods shipped in each wagon, to guard against loss from any cause, to "cooper" packages that may be broken by the way, to see that the drivers are always provided with forage for their mules, that they are always well cared for, and that the wagons are put in thorough repair at the end of each trip. I would suggest also that you send us about 30 small white or yellow flags, marked "U. S. San. Com. Train," one to be carried by each wagon. This will advertise the train and frequently give it precedence over other trains in getting through, and might, perhaps, save a train from being captured, or if captured, prevent its destruction, under the hope of getting it through to Dixie, where there is even a greater demand for such stores than here; and as long as a captured train is not destroyed, there is hope of its recapture.

STATE OF THE HOSPITALS.

On the 9th the eight wagon-loads of stores reached us in good condition. Over 500 shirts were distributed the first day after they were opened, and for all the articles of clothing, dressings and edibles, there was an eager demand, far beyond the supply. I could not hope to distribute this shipment in such a manner as to avoid all complaint, when we were compelled to refuse to issue to many who really needed them, because there were others who needed them much more. Surgeons of regiments desired edibles and clothing for their sick, private soldiers who had lost their baggage asked to be clothed in part, and staff officers asked for shirts and drawers, that they might change those they had worn unwashed since the battle. All such requests we were compelled to refuse, and in accordance with the request of the Medical Director, and our own ideas of the comparative wants, to restrict our issues mainly to the most needy of the wounded, promising all others that their wants should be supplied as soon as it could possibly be done. All have seemed pleasantly to acquiesce in this arrangement, and if there has been any complaint it has not been brought to our notice.

The wounded are generally doing well, and bear with patience the privations that appear unavoidable, but a generous supply of edibles suitable for sick and wounded men, including stimulants, milk, beef, dried and canned fruits, patatoes and onions in large quantities, soft crackers, butter, cheese, pickles, green tea, farinaceous delicacies, &c., &c., are indispensable to their recovery. I trust that a supply of these articles will be ready at Stevenson, to fill at any time the 20 wagons, and as often as they can make the trip, and if more than that are accumulated there, we will undertake to get them through. There is a demand also for flannel shirts and drawers, sheets, blankets, &c., which, while the present pressure continues, we are not to forward in the "Sanitary Train." But let them be accumulated without stint at Stevenson, for we hope that communication by the river and by railroad will soon be opened. And I have requested the surgeons here, while waiting for that event, to make requisitions at every opportunity for articles of the latter description, upon the Agent at Stevenson, and in that way a very fair supply can be got through by ambulances and hospital wagons.

As you are aware, the occupation of the railroad for many days in transporting troops, and the subsequent raids upon it between Stevenson and Nashville, stopped for some time the receipt

of stores at Stevenson. The same events caused an unexpected accumulation of sick at the latter place, calling for large issues of sanitary stores there, leaving only enough to fill fifteen of the wagons ordered to report there. These are now on the way, and we look for their arrival to-morrow, the 14th. And as to the 20 wagons constituting our train having probably already reported at Stevenson, where we suppose there are now abundant supplies, we are in a measure relieved of anxiety, and anticipate a constant and tolerably abundant supply.

I have to-day received a note from Rev. O. Kennedy, who is aiding in our work, that he has reached his post on the west side of the mountain and pitched the tents for the soldiers' "Lodge." But to-day, the route by which the wounded are sent has been changed, and I have sent him directions to remove the Lodge to the foot of the mountain, in the Sequatchie Valley, on Poe's road, where there is a copious spring of good water, and where he will be enabled to feed all the sick and wounded who are sent north. Colonel Goddard is ever ready to aid us, forwarding the letter by a courier, sent with instructions to the couriers at the station nearest the Lodge, and about six miles from it, to forward it at once by special messenger.

Seventy-two ambulances leave with wounded to-day, and about seventy-five to-morrow. It is hoped Mr. Kennedy will get his Lodge removed in time to feed them all. Arrangements are made to secure prompt notice when trains of sick or wounded are to be started, which will be forwarded to Mr. Kennedy, by the couriers and by special messenger from the nearest courier station. This will enable him to be always ready to receive his guests.

THE HOSPITAL DIRECTORY.

The answering of special inquiries by friends has again become an important part of the work here. All that have been received thus far have been answered, and in nearly every case the information has been definite and positive. But, frequently, considerable delay is inevitable. The hospitals are not yet thoroughly organized. There are three general hospitals for the wounded, while almost every division of the army has its two hospitals, one for the sick, and one for the wounded; yet in each of these will be found some men from nearly all of the other divisions. Frequently each of these hospitals, some of them three miles from the river on the other side, must be reached and then a visit made to the regiment before a definite answer can be returned. *Frequently mistakes in telegraphing the name lead us astray for a time, and in fact, accuracy in the name is the exception, not the rule, in all the inquiries we receive.* Too much care cannot be taken in preparing dispatches that they be accurate and very plainly written. If the rank, company, and regiment is correctly given, and any part of the name comes, the person meant can be identified when found, but any mistake in the name increases very much the difficulty in the way of finding him.

It is evident, unless a successful flank movement is made by the army, that all the most gravely wounded of the recent battles, and the usual number of sick of the army, will here require assistance from our stores for a long time. The greater part of the wounded now remaining must perish or recover here, unless some other route is opened for removing them besides the wagon-road over the mountains. They need and deserve a large and constant supply of such stores as are usually forwarded by the Commission. Without this, many will die, who, with it, would recover. Delicate and nourishing food, with a full supply of vegetables, is what, on the testimony of all the surgeons in charge, is most needed, and is really indispensable.

Knowing what you are doing and can do, I have promised that there shall soon be a supply either equal to the demand, or at least equal to the amount of transportation that can be procured between this point and Stevenson.

The seventeen wagon-loads of stores which were forwarded from Stevenson and Bridgeport, unhappily, never reached their destination. They were all captured on the way. Mr. Redding's account of the incident is as follows:

On the 28th ult., while I was at Bridgeport, Mr. Read sent me word from Stevenson that he had secured some wagons to send stores to the front, and to try if I could not procure ten wagons on an order from Capt. Warren, A. Q. M. at the latter place. I was unable to get them that day, but was promised them the following morning, and immediately telegraphed Mr. Read of the promise. His wagons were then loaded, sent out, and ordered to camp for the night two (2) miles beyond the place, so as to enable my train to catch them at Battle Creek or Jasper.

On the morning of the 29th I secured the ten wagons, loaded them, and telegraphed Mr. Read that there was no one to go in charge, and whether I should go. I waited several hours for a reply—no one came, and I then started my train, with orders to drive as fast as they could until they caught the train from Stevenson. I then telegraphed Mr. Read that I had started

the train, and about two (2) hours afterwards received the word to ride out until I overtook both trains, consolidate them, and place them in charge of Larrabee, then to return. Larrabee had been sent out after the receipt of my first dispatch, to go through with the train.

I then procured a horse, rode on and met the two (2) trains a short distance this side of Jasper, at sundown. We camped at Jasper for the night, and until *bedtime* I searched for Larrabee, but without success. On the following morning, the 30th, I had the two trains consolidated, started early, and kept a constant lookout for Larrabee, but at last concluded that further search would be without success, and decided to go through with the train myself. We camped that night within two miles of the foot of the mountain, and on the next morning, though subjected to a hard rain, started for the mountain. On arriving there, we found several trains already at its base, unable to proceed on account of a train being upon it with bad mules, broken-down wagons, and deep in mud. I examined the condition the train was in carefully, and concluded we would be detained several days by it unless we could find another road by which we could go on. It still continued to rain very hard, rendering this mountain road worse and worse, and the probability of this train getting over the mountain in four or five days very doubtful.

Seeing this, I called upon the Quartermasters of Negley's and Rousseau's trains to discuss the propriety of finding out and taking some other road. The plan was accepted, and horsemen were immediately sent out to look up and examine some other road. In the afternoon they returned and reported another road running through a valley to the left of the road we were on, equally as good as it, but about ten (10) miles longer. It was then decided by us to take this road on the next morning, the 2d.

Before breakfast on the 2d, the two trains spoken of left the mass of wagons at the foot of the mountain—a number having come in after us on the preceding day, and started out on this new road. By an accident, we were detained several hours, but about 9 o'clock we were ready to start, and I rode over to a house in the valley to our left to get some food for the trip. While over there, a man came dashing up to me and stated that a forage train had just been destroyed by the rebels near the foot of the mountain on this new road, and that Negley's and Rousseau's trains were returning, but was unable to give any particulars. I rode over to our camp and spread this news; all, however, believed it to be the work of a few guerrillas; that they would not dare to attack us in camp, as "we have enough teamsters to wipe them out without arms," said they; and they did not believe there could be any considerable body of rebels on that side of the river, believing the river was not fordable. I *knew it* to be fordable, having seen men crossing it for forage on my last trip to Bridgeport. So believing this, I started off to inform the 29th Indiana and another regiment of mounted infantry encamped between three or four miles to our rear, of the capture of the forage train, and of our danger; but after having gone about one mile, a man came dashing by me going to them, and he having a much swifter horse than my own, I gave way to him and returned to camp. I arrived at camp at 11 o'clock, and a few moments after a man came galloping in and stated that the rebels in large force were in sight just over the hill, dashing down the valley—and here allow me to say, that by the thoughtlessness and neglect of the person whose business it is to protect the supplies of this army, there was not a guard to any train present.

There were, according to the estimate of the Quartermasters of Negley's, Sheridan's and Rousseau's trains, about 400 wagons congregated at the foot of the mountain, and not one guard with them. There happened to be four or five companies of the 21st Kentucky on the mountain, which were immediately ordered to the foot to repel the rebels, or hold them in check until the reinforcements sent for arrived. As soon as the appearance of the rebels was made known, I ordered our wagons as near the base of the mountain as they could get, being very much scattered over the plain, thinking that the force present might be able to keep the rebels some distance off, and to prevent their burning them while the fight was going on. This was done, and I immediately started across the plain with the intention of getting in the rear of the rebels, watch the fight, and if they succeeded in whipping our men and in capturing the wagons, to see their commander and plead with him to spare our stores. I believed that if he was not a guerrilla, but had a spark of feeling for suffering beings in him, that I could kindle this spark into a flame, and that our stores should be spared. Although mounted, I made slow progress over the plains on account of the mass of wagons I had to pass through, and when about half way across, the rebels having formed their line of battle behind the hill I was trying to reach, appeared on its top, and without demanding a surrender, commenced firing upon the train. I being in the centre of the trains, or mass of wagons, and mounted, their balls

fell around me like hail. I could not carry out my plan then, without great risk of my life, so I wheeled around and made for the mountain. It was very steep where I struck it, and I had to lead my horse up. The Kentucky Infantry, by squads, formed themselves along the side of the mountain, and poured a sharp fire into the rebels; but their great superiority in numbers, their gradual approach on the train, and the fact that they intended to surround us and cut off the retreat of every man, which I plainly saw they were endeavoring to do, naturally induced me to "*skedaddle*" over the mountain as rapidly as possible. I went down the road for about three-quarters of a mile from its base, and there remained until the firing had ceased, then started back with the intention of saving our stores if they were not already destroyed, if I had to put myself in their hands to do it. On arriving at a point from which I could see a portion of the plain, I saw the main body of the rebels moving off in the direction of Jasper, while another body were moving off with the prisoners in the direction from which they came. I knew then we were defeated, and feared the wagons were already burned. Presently the Wagon-Master of my train, having been in and escaped from the fight, came along and told me that nearly all of our wagons were on fire when he left, the rebels having taken some of them to contain army supplies, I suppose, or they would never have burned them, and that they had found out the contents of some of them, and were feasting upon them. Most of our wagons were filled with fodder, which the rebels did not take the trouble and time to remove; while some had none in them. The former they had burned before the Wagon-Master of my train left, as already stated; and the latter they feasted upon, eating and drinking, and "a merrier set," our Wagon-Master said, "was never seen." He also stated that the rebels had sent a detachment around the mountain to a point where another road joins the road on the mountain, to cut off and capture those that had escaped from the fight, and that unless we could reach that point before they did, we would certainly fall into their hands. A Captain of the 21st Kentucky, who had escaped, asserted the same, and believing it to be useless then to put myself into the hands of a drunken set of brutes for the few stores that probably remained, and considering the consequences of such an act, I therefore decided to start for Chattanooga. We rushed our horses on until beyond the junction of the road spoken of with the one we were on, and the same night, at 10 o'clock, safely reached this place.

The force of the rebels, the attacking body and the reserve, is estimated at from four to twelve thousand. My own estimate and that of nearly all I have seen and conversed with who were in the fight, is about four thousand under Wheeler. Several trains that were in camp with us when the destruction of the forage train was announced, retreated in the direction of Jasper; but the body of rebels spoken of moved off in that direction after the capture of our stores, came upon and destroyed them. Dr. Castleman was in the fight with one or both of these, and was captured. He asserts, that had he known that we had stores at the mountain, he could have saved them. This is questionable, however, as he was several miles distant from the foot of the mountain at the time of the capture of our stores.

October 18th, Mr. Read writes once more of the difficulty of transportation, the great difficulty of this Western campaigning:

I have written you at every opportunity, and frequently by mail, often repeating what I have written on account of irregularities in the mails.

As I have written and telegraphed, I deem it of absolute importance that we have a reliable, energetic, hardy man, to act as Wagon-Master of our train, to accompany it on all its trips over the mountain. A casual agent is good for nothing for such a purpose; for, in every instance thus far, they have abandoned the train as soon as they got within hailing distance of Chattanooga, and come to our rooms to report that the *train was coming*, and left everything to the honesty (?) of drivers and wagon-masters.

The fifteen wagon-loads have arrived and will be unloaded at our rooms this morning, robbed of all the stimulants and many other articles. Col. McRay has sent in a report of the robbery, and I shall do so as soon as I have taken an inventory and know specially what has been stolen. We need goods much faster than they get through, and our means of transportation from Stevenson are in excess over the arrivals there. We shall lose our train unless we can keep it filled.

On the 24th he gives some information as to where the stores captured by the enemy came from.

In my letter of the 12th, I gave you in haste and in detail an account of the capture and destruction of our train of stores; but having seen a statement in the *Louisville Journal* of the 14th, made by Col. Shyrock, of Indiana, which you may not have seen, and

which is incorrect, and, I think, discouraging to some of our "home workers," as it throws the entire loss upon the shoulders of *one single body*, I wish to call your attention to it for correction, if you think proper, and also to write a few lines in regard to matters here. The statement referred to, given by Mr. Sargent to Col. Shyrock, was, that "we lost in the attack 39 wagon-loads of stores from the Chicago Sanitary Commission." This is, for the most part, I know, incorrect. There were only eighteen (18) instead of thirty-nine (39) wagon-loads, as you already know; and in regard to the receipt of the stores alone from Chicago, the ten (10) wagons I sent from Bridgeport were loaded about equally with goods from Cleveland Aid Society, Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and Indiana Commissions, but none from Chicago. In those sent from Stevenson, there may have been Chicago stores, but most I know were either purchased or contributed at Louisville. The number of packages sent from Bridgeport was 69; the number from Stevenson I do not know, as no invoice was sent with the goods, and none has ever reached this office to my knowledge. I merely state this in contradiction to an error or misstatement which it may be well to correct.

SUFFERINGS OF THE TROOPS.

Since writing you last, we have again moved our rooms; the buildings we were in being used as Palmer's Division Hospital, and quite a number of sick coming in from the division, demanded more room; so at the request of Dr. Perrin, Medical Director, we vacated it, having this house first secured us.

The sanitary condition of this army is anything but good now. By reason of the heavy rains we have had for the last ten days, the wagon-roads to Stevenson are rendered almost impassable, and consequently the Commissaries are reduced to almost nothing, and the army is drawn down to half rations. The nights are very damp and cold, and many soldiers appeal here daily for blankets, having lost theirs in the battle, who, under the circumstances, are unable to get them, and have to sleep without covering. We have none, the Purveyor has none, and they are not to be had at all of any one. Sickness is increasing, but diarrhœa seems to be the universal plague, and is increasing, and vegetables! is the great cry; but at the same time, all articles that make good diet are in great demand.

PLUNDER OF THE WAGONS BY THE TEAMSTERS.

On the 10th, a shipment of ten (10) wagons was made at Stevenson, which reached this place (I would say a portion of which) on the 19th, having been subjected to hard rains and pillage. While on the mountain, the teamsters of our train—75 in number—concluded they must have a spree, even at the expense of the sick and dying soldiers, and appropriated or destroyed nine-tenths of all the stimulants and delicacies in the shipment. Only eleven (11) wagon-loads arrived here. The exact amount pillaged I gave in a report to Col. Goddard, who says "they will never drive a team again for the Army of the Cumberland." The amount destroyed is as follows:

346 cans Milk,
236 bottles Wine and Spirits,
21 " Cider,
101 " Ale,
56 cans Oysters,
15 " Fruit,
16 " Beef and 2 Cheeses.
Also, 2 barrels and 1 box Crackers,
1 " Lemon Syrup,
1 " Sundries.

I think these teamsters will meet their reward. By this shipment we received a tolerable good supply of shirts, and over a thousand (1,000) poor soldiers have already exchanged their bloody ones for these.

This being the only shipment made us since I wrote you last, our shelves are again nearly empty, having nothing of consequence except about four hundred (400) cans of milk. There is a fair supply at Stevenson, and so soon as the roads get better, we will receive again. Active preparations are going on for clearing the river of rebels, so as to have boats ply between here and Bridgeport to bring forward stores. *It must be done*, and a desperate effort will be made to do it. I learn from good authority to-day that a division leaves very soon to drive the rebels from Lookout Mountain. Ere this reaches you, I think and believe boats will be running to Bridgeport, and then a depot will again be necessary there.

SANITARY HINTS.

SPECIAL DISINFECTANTS AND THEIR APPLICATIONS.

That there can be no substitute for *fresh air* to meet the physiological requirements of respiration and health, should be indelibly impressed upon every mind. Better that all substances at present employed as disinfectants and deodorants were at once prohibited by the Medical Department, than that such agents should practically

tend to be regarded as *substitutes for a pure atmosphere.* But the necessities and privations of army life, the multiplied agencies of disease, and the vitiating conditions attendant upon wounds and sickness, create necessities for the employment of chemical and other artificial agencies to mitigate, and, in some measure, prevent the otherwise inevitable contamination of the local atmosphere of crowded hospitals, transports, and quarters; and it is only such necessary demands for the employment of disinfectants that justify even the occasional allusion we have made respecting them in preceding pages. They are simply aids in restoring and preserving healthful purity, and not substitutes for cleanliness and pure air.

For the convenience of persons who may have occasion to refresh the memory with the more practical facts relating to special disinfectants, and the best method of their application, the following notes are added in reference to this subject:

The principal disinfecting agents may be classified as follows:

Absorbents and retainers of noxious effluvia, particularly the ammoniacal and sulphuretted gases.	Charcoal, Sulphate of Lime (Plaster Sulphite of Lime, [Paris,) Silicate of Alumina (Porous Clay.)
Absorbents of moisture; chemical agents that act upon organic matter, and recombine some of the elements of noxious effluvia.	Quicklime, Sulphuric Acid, Hydrochloric Acid, Nitric and Nitrous Acids.
Soluble salts that are particularly available for arresting processes of decomposition, and for controlling phosphuretted and sulphuretted gases.	Nitrate of Lead, Chloride of Zinc, Proto-Chloride of Iron, Proto-Sulphate of Iron.
Antiseptics that act diffusively and rapidly, though less permanent y than some others. Active in destroying compound gases.	Chlorine Gas, Hypochlorite of Soda (*Labarraque's solution,*) Chloride of Lime.
The most prompt and efficient antiseptic known.	Bromine.
Antiseptic, and of great power as an oxidizer, and as an available source of ozone.	Permanganate of Potassa.
Antiseptic and deodorant; capable of a great variety, extent, and economy of applications, and acting with considerable energy and permanency	Carbolic Acid and Coal-tar compounds.
Destructive of contagious virus and all transportable infections.	Heat.
Destructive of Yellow Fever miasma, and of the malaria that produces the "Paludal Fevers."	Frost.

Considered *theoretically*, we may regard all disinfecting agents under the following heads, and perhaps this would be the more scientific arrangement of them:—1. *Absorbents of moisture and of noxious effluvia;* 2. *Oxidizers* [ozone the most active,] *and Deoxidizers;* 3. *Other chemical agents that break up noxious compounds;* 4. *Agents that form indestructible compounds with putrescent materials; or that destroy cell-life and the cryptogamic and infusorial organisms.* But as the present state of chemical and medical knowledge only enables us to make such general statements respecting the theoretical action of disinfectants, we will follow our first classification by a few practical statements concerning each of the articles mentioned.

Charcoal.—Freshly burned and broken, this substance will absorb from 10 to 14 *per cent. its own weight* of gases and moisture from the atmosphere during the period of 24 hours; and it is capable of absorbing 90 times its own volume of ammonia, or 55 times its own volume of sulphuretted hydrogen. Properly applied, charcoal is an arrester of putrefaction, and, as such, it is worthy of more extensive employment in the better preservation of animal food when served out in an unwholesome state by the regimental quartermasters. As a disinfectant or deodorant for extensive use in masses of putrescent material, and for local purification, fresh charcoal is of acknowledged value. The British Sanitary Commission, in the Crimea, ordered whole ship-loads of peat charcoal, which they used in the progress of their work of purification in the hospitals, barracks, or camps in the East. A Report of that Commission states that "perhaps the best deodorizing compound was one used by the inspectors in all their works. It consisted of *one part of peat charcoal, one part of quicklime, and four parts of sand or gravel.*" It should be remembered that the preservation of the disinfecting power of charcoal powder depends upon its being both fresh and dry.

Sulphate of Lime, Sulphite of Lime, and Porous Clay. — All these substances are valuable absorbents of ammoniacal and sulphuretted effluvia, and they constitute exceedingly convenient vehicles and auxiliary menstrua for some of the more potent and expensive antiseptics. The much vaunted French disinfectant, known as the disinfecting powder of Messrs. Corné & Demeaux, consists of about 94 per cent. of finely ground gypsum and 5 or 6 per cent. of coal-tar or the "heavy oil of coal-tar." McDougall's powder, and the Ridgewood disinfectant, consist of carbolic acid combined with the sulphate of lime and porous silicate of alumina, respectively, as will be noticed upon a subsequent page. Hyposulphite of lime possesses the property of absolutely arresting fermentation or the catalytic processes. The several substances of this first class, and their compounds, particularly those with carbolic acid or coal-tar, are among the most valuable disinfectants, especially when large quantities of cheap and effectual articles of the kind are required.

Quicklime.—With sulphuretted and with

phosphuretted effluvia, and with humid vapors, freshly burned lime unites with great avidity, and as an absorbent of moisture and a chemical base for many acids, it is of peculiar value; but lime also eliminates or sets free the ammoniacal gases, and, like the acids of our second class of disinfectants, it is of *less permanent* value than some other agents. It is one of the most convenient antiseptics, and for local applications, as in whitewashing, sprinkling, desiccating damp surfaces or putrescent substances, and for temporarily arresting putrefaction, it is invaluable. Lime should be used dry and unslacked, except it be for the special purpose of combining with carbonic acid gas; for the latter object it should be reduced to a creamy hydrate, and, in overcrowded wards and barracks, it may be usefully employed in this way, distributed in shallow plates. Distributed in like manner, *sulphuric acid* may be employed for diminishing the humidity of the atmosphere in a closed and damp apartment; but for this purpose it is usually better to resort to strong currents of air, by means of through and through ventilation, when practicable.

The topical applications of the acids, particularly of the *nitric acid*, in arresting gangrene, are well understood by surgeons. *Nitrous acid* is a valuable antiseptic, and the production and application of its fumes constituted the famous disinfecting process of Dr. Carmichael Smyth.

The *fumes of nitrous acid* that so long had fame for disinfecting purposes in the barracks, hospitals, and navy of Great Britain may be readily produced by heating a mixture of nitrate of potassa and sulphuric acid in an iron or porcelain dish. Persons who resort to this method of fumigation should bear in mind the fact that strong fumes of nitrous acid are dangerously irritating to the throat and lungs. These fuming acids are powerful oxidizers, but their avidity for water, together with their peculiarities of chemical affinity, render their value as disinfectants somewhat uncertain.

Nitrate of Lead.—Practical considerations place this salt at the head of odorless disinfecting salts most available for certain local applications, such as deodorizing a close apartment, and the bedding, &c., of sick persons, by means of a solution distributed on shallow vessels or upon saturated cloths. The nitrate of lead is the basis of "Ledoyen's liquid."

The *permanganate of potassa* is far the most efficient salt of this kind, and its cost alone should limit its employment. It is a chemical agent of different and far greater powers than any of the metallic salts in this third class.

Chloride of Zinc.—Though more powerfully antiseptic than nitrate of lead, it is not as valuable a deodorant. It is most to be valued for its property of promptly arresting putrefactive processes. As "Sir Wm. Burnett's disinfectant," it is widely known.

Both this salt, and that of lead, last mentioned, may be employed to delay decomposition in a corpse, in the absence of an embalmer. This is best accomplished by wrapping the dead body in a folded sheet that is saturated with either of these salts.

The Proto-chloride and the Proto-sulphate of Iron.—These are valuable and very cheap agents for aiding in the control of ammoniacal and sulphuretted effluvia. Being soluble, and very cheap, these salts are capable of varied and convenient applications, separately, or in combination with other deodorizing materials.

Chlorine and its alkaline compounds.—The common preparations of chlorinated soda and chloride of lime act with great efficiency when the carbonic, sulphuretted, or ammoniacal gases are brought into contact with them. As their special uses require no explanation in this place, we simply append brief directions for generating chlorine gas where it may be required more immediately and copiously than it would be given off by the alkaline chlorides or hypochlorites.

Ready method.—Pour dilute hydrochloric, sulphuric, nitric, or acetic acid upon chlorides of lime, zinc, or soda. This may be done gradually by means of a glass or lead syphon, or by the capillary syphon of lamp-wick, dropping the acid upon the chloride, if desirable to evolve the chlorine steadily for many hours.

Cheap method.—Mix 6 parts of peroxide of manganese with 8 parts of table salt (chloride of sodium) in a lead or iron vessel, which should be set freely within another vessel of larger capacity; pour upon the mixture of manganese and salt 13 parts of sulphuric acid, which may be diluted with water to abate the rapidity of the evolution of the gas. Heat the vessel containing this mixture by means of hot water or steam, if more rapid evolution of the gas is required.

Ordinary method.—Mix four parts of fuming hydrochloric (muriatic) acid with one part of coarse powder of peroxide of manganese, adding water, as may be desired, to abate the rapidity of evolution. Apply moderate heat. The vessel may be of a kind to permit the use of the acid and the heat. The heat, however, by this method, is not indispensable.

A very neat method of evolving chlorine in hospitals and transports, is to put a few ounces of the black oxide of manganese into a stout glass bottle of large size, rig a bulbous pipette to a perforated cork or stopper, and fitting an india-rubber bulb

upon the headless bulb of the pipette, fill the pipette with muriatic acid, and evolve the chlorine at pleasure by occasional pressure upon the elastic cap.

Bromine and its compounds.—This most powerful antiseptic has recently been brought into requisition in the military hospitals as a special disinfectant and arrester of gangrene. It is applied both topically and diffusively. Bromine is exceedingly penetrating and energetic in its action, and consequently is to be manipulated and applied with proper caution. It is principally employed in its pure liquid form, or in combination with bromide of potassium. Special caution should be used not to respire the strong fumes or any pulverized compound of bromine, as its effects when inhaled are suffocating. The following concise statement of the best methods for applying this potent disinfectant we quote from Dr. M. Goldsmith, Medical Director of Military Hospitals at Louisville, Ky., to whom the medical profession is largely indebted for its successful introduction as a topical and prophylactic agent for the control of hospital gangrene and erysipelas:

DIRECTIONS FOR USE.

1. *For Fumigation.*—Place vessels, containing *one ounce* of the solution at different points of the ward, and in number sufficient to secure in the latter the constant presence of the odor of bromine.

It should be borne in mind that, if the vapor of bromine comes in contact with the vapor of water, hydro-bromic acid is formed; therefore, when there is much of the vapor of water disengaged in the apartment, the quantity of the vapor of bromine must be correspondingly increased.

2. *Topical Application of the Vapor.*—A piece of *dry* lint is to be placed over the diseased part; over this is to be placed another piece of lint, *moistened with the solution of bromine;* over this, a *third* piece *spread with simple cerate;* the whole to be covered with oiled silk and bandage, so arranged as to retain the vapor in contact with the diseased surface as long as possible. The solution is to be removed as often as it becomes exhausted by evaporation.

3. *The Solution, in Substance, as a direct Application, in Hospital Gangrene, Diphtheria, Gangrene of the Tongue,* and other diseases of this nature:—The parts are first to be dried by the application of charpie; then the sloughs, if thick, should be trimmed out with forceps and scissors as much as possible, for the thinner the slough the more effective is the remedy. The parts having again been dried, the solution is applied by means of a mop, or a pointed stick of wood, in quantity sufficient to saturate the sloughs. If the sloughs undermine the skin, or dip down into intermuscular spaces, the solution must be made to follow, with the pointed stick, or by means of a glass syringe.

If the application has been effectual, all odor from the diseased surface ceases, and the sloughs become somewhat hardened. The remedy should be reapplied every second hour, as long as any odor of putrefaction is present, or as long as the sloughs appear to be diffluent. It is not always necessary, especially when the sloughs are diffluent and thin, to use the solution in its full strength; it may be weakened by the addition of water, as the disease subsides.

The points to be especially attended to, in the use of the solution of bromine, are two: 1. The solution should be applied in strength and frequency sufficient for the impregnation of *the whole of the sloughs;* 2. To secure this end, the application *should be made by the surgeon himself,* and never be trusted to a nurse. If the sloughs are thick and cannot well be trimmed, the bromine may be introduced into the thickness of the slough by means of a hypodermic syringe.

After the topical application of the solution, the parts, when so situated as to render it practicable, should be subjected to the influence of the vapor. (See par. 1.)

Surgeons will do well to bear in mind that bromine is a new remedy for the purposes indicated above. The directions for its use, given here, are those followed in the military hospitals of this city; it may be found advisable to modify them as experience with the remedy accumulates. It is, therefore, earnestly recommended that the subject be studied diligently, that the effects of the remedy be carefully watched, and that the application be varied as new facts are developed in its use.

The investigation of the evidences respecting the antiseptic and prophylactic powers of this new disinfectant has reasonably confirmed the opinion of its great utility. But to secure its beneficial effects, its application should be made with proper care and thoroughness. It claims to arrest the destructive progress of gangrene, erysipelas, etc., and utterly to destroy the personal and the diffused virus of such maladies. To accomplish this effectually, the bromine must be applied to every molecule of the virus, and this is to be effected by means of the pipette syringe, the pointed stick, the scissors, and the solution, for local applications; and by its pungent and volatile vapors in wards and other infected places. This disinfectant certainly promises to be a great boon to our military hospitals.

Permanganate of Potassa.—A special order from the Medical Bureau at Washington [*Circular*, No. 12,] calls the attention

of medical officers to "the virtues of permanganate of potassa as a disinfectant and deodorizer." This is a soluble substance peculiarly convenient of application and remarkably certain and efficient in its effects as a disinfectant. Its employment as a deodorizer and prophylactic is limited mainly to topical applications, to gangrenous parts or putrescent materials, and to general effect upon the atmosphere of contaminated apartments, by means of evaporating cloths saturated with a strong solution of the permanganate. The oxidizing and antiseptic effects of the permanganate of potassa upon organic and putrescent matter are remarkable. It is the most sensitive test for the presence of organic matter, which it oxidizes with wonderful facility. [*See remarks upon this subject in Hammond's Hygiene.*] As this is an expensive and delicate substance, it is to be employed economically, upon saturated cloths or in dilute solutions upon plates. For purifying offensive water for purposes of beverage, etc., a standard solution should be dropped into the vessel of water, *until the tinge of the permanganate begins to appear.* The rapid and effectual oxidation of the organic (*putrid*) elements of impure water and other substances, even of the atmosphere itself, when brought in contact with solutions of this salt, and the consequent and almost instant deodorization of such impurities, render this disinfectant of priceless value for practical purposes. And as all preparations of manganese are therapeutically tonic, probably the minute quantities of this salt that would be taken in drinking the water purified as above described, would only act beneficially. "Condy's Disinfectant," "Darby's Fluid," and all the vaunted preparations of "Ozonized water," etc., are but solutions of permanganates. The salts are cheaper and more reliable than such nostrums, and are now supplied by all medical purveyors in the army.

Coal-tar Compounds — Carbolates. — The carbolate of lime has been employed to some extent in our camps and hospitals. McDougall's powder consists of carbolate of lime, sulphate of lime, quick-lime, etc. The Ridgewood disinfectant consists of carbolic acid, proto-chloride of iron, etc., combined with fullers' earth. Either of these, which are furnished by the medical purveyors, appear to be quite as valuable as the more expensive article of MM. Corné and Demeaux, which is used at the Imperial Camp at Châlons, and was found highly serviceable by Barron Larrey, after the great battles of the late Italian campaign. Coal-tar, in almost any form, is available for disinfecting sewers, etc., and in the dry powders mentioned, it is available for delaying the process of decomposition, whether in a corpse, or in refuse material. Carbolic acid has the antiseptic powers of creasote, and is largely sold for that article. The antiseptic properties of coal-tar, its effect upon mephitic gases and putrescent material, the permanency of its operation, and the cheapness of the article, render it available for extensive application in neutralizing and arresting cloacal and noxious effluvia in the processes of animal decomposition. A distinguished Medical Inspector of our army, when cut off from ordinary medical supplies, effectually and quickly abated the nuisances pertaining to an extensive old fortress, by means of an extemporized mixture of coal-tar, procured from the gas-works upon the premises. For use in chamber vessels, close-stools, etc., a neat fluid preparation may be made, after the formula of M. Demeaux, by mixing equal parts of coal-tar, alcohol, and hot soft soap. With the progress of knowledge respecting the chemistry of coal-tar and other hydro-carbons, the precise value of this class of disinfectants will be better understood. Coal-tar certainly has remarkable efficacy in arresting putrescence and controlling its effluvia.

Heat.—As a means of immediate disinfection of contaminated garments, bedding, and even of close apartments, ships, etc., heat is at once a cheap and most effectual method. The boiling of infected clothing, etc., is admitted to effectually destroy any contagious poison. And practically, upon a large scale in such work, experience proves it is best to employ steam as the means of heating. Upon this subject, see remarks and plans of M. Baudens [*Hospitals and Health of Troops*, Am. ed., pp. 238–204]; also, a Report on Heat as a disinfectant, in the Transactions of the National Sanitary Convention, 1860. It is probable that no circumstance contributes more directly to the perpetuation and spread of the typhus poison, than the accumulation and bad management of contaminated clothing, etc., that ought, under all circumstances, to be purified as soon as it leaves the patient or the bed.

Frost or Low Temperature, when continued a sufficient length of time, will effectually destroy both the miasma that produces yellow fever, and the paludal malaria that produces intermittent and remittent fevers; but such low temperature has no effect to arrest those fevers in the persons suffering them. It is worthy of note, that a freezing temperature does not appear to mitigate the activity of the personally infectious poisons, or contagions; though, with certain exceptions, it arrests putrefaction and the catalytic or fermentative processes.

For the Commission:

ELISHA HARRIS, M.D.

THE U. S. SANITARY COMMISSION

Was constituted by the Secretary of War in June, 1861, in accordance with the recommendation of the Surgeon-General of the U. S. Army, and its appointment and plan of organization were approved by the President of the United States. Its present organization is as follows:

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F. L. Olmsted.
George T. Strong, Esq., New York.
Elisha Harris, M.D., New York.
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For information relative to patients in the Hospitals in Eastern Virginia, Maryland, District of Columbia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida and Louisiana, address "Office of Sanitary Commission, Washington, D. C."

For the Hospitals in Pennsylvania, address "Office of Sanitary Commission, No. 1,307 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia."

For the Hospitals in New York, New Jersey, and the New England States, address "Office Women's Central Union, No. 10 Cooper Institute, New York."

For the Hospitals in Western Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi and Arkansas, address "Office Sanitary Commission, Louisville, Ky."

In all cases the name, rank, company, and regiment of the person inquired for should be given, and where he was when last heard from. If the application is by letter, the answer will be sent by return of mail; if in person, it will be answered at once; or if by telegraph, an answer will be returned immediately at the inquirer's expense.

☞ Soldiers' Aid Societies, clergymen, editors, and others, can scarcely serve the cause of humanity more effectually than by frequently and widely disseminating a knowledge of the above, among those who have friends in the army.

SUPPLY DEPARTMENT.

The Sanitary Commission, under special authority of the President of the United States, maintains an extensive system of agencies for securing the safe conveyance to, and distribution of, goods put in its charge for the sick and wounded at points where they are most wanted. It operates with equal care and generosity at all points—at New Orleans and at Washington, before Charleston and at Chattanooga—its distributions being governed by a comparison of the wants of the patients in all cases. The following is a list of depots, to which auxiliary societies, and all disposed to aid the sick and wounded, without reference to States or localities, but simply to their relative necessity for assistance, are invited to send their offerings:

Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 22 Summer Street, Boston, Mass.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 10 3d Avenue, New York.
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Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 46 South Sharp Street, Baltimore, Md.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, corner Vine and Sixth Streets, Cincinnati, O.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 95 Bank Street, Cleveland, O.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 66 Madison Street, Chicago, Ill.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 2 Adam's Block, Buffalo, New York.
Sanitary Commission, Branch Depot, No. 59 4th Street, Pittsburg, Penn.
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The Commission receives no pecuniary aid whatever from the Government, and is wholly dependent on the voluntary contributions of the public for the means of sustaining its operations. Contributions to the Treasury are solicited, and may be transmitted to George T. Strong, Esq., Treasurer, 68 Wall Street, N. Y.

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General Superintendent, Rev. F. N. Knapp, Washington, D. C. Chief Assistant, J. B. Abbott.
Soldiers' Home, near Baltimore Railroad Depot, Washington, D. C.
Lodge No. 4, H Street, between 13th and 14th Streets.
Lodge No. 5, Maryland Avenue, near Railroad Station.
Nurses' Home, Washington, D. C.
Soldiers' Home, Third Street, east of Broadway, Cincinnati, Ohio—Col. G. W. D. Andrews, Sup't.
Soldiers' Home, Cairo, Ill.—C. N. Shipman, Sup't and Relief Agent.
Soldiers' Home, Louisville, Ky.—James Malona, Sup't. James Morton, Special Relief Agent.
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